

SEPTEMBER 1900

PRICE 5 CENTS

VOLXII NO11 MN143

COMFORT

THE KEY TO A MILLION AND A QUARTER HOMES

NEW YORK

AUGUSTA, MAINE.

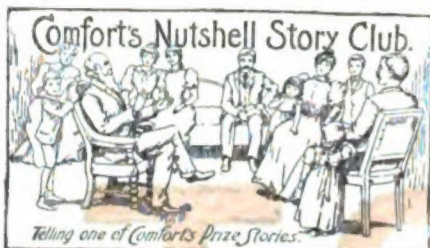
BOSTON

Copyright, 1900, by W. H. Gannett, Publisher.
Incorporated.

SEPTEMBER.

SUN	MON.	TUES.	WED.	THURS.	FRI.	SAT.
		3 F. & I.	4 F. & S.	5 L. & S.	6 R. & S.	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 30	24	25	26	27	28	29





PRIZE STORIES.

The following conditions govern the awarding of cash prizes for Nutshell Stories, and the manuscripts of such writers only as have complied with all these requirements will receive consideration.

All the necessary particulars being here clearly set forth, it will be useless for anyone to seek further information or personal favors by addressing the editor, as such letters cannot be answered.

1. Only persons who are regular paid up yearly subscribers to "Comfort" and who send with every manuscript at least two yearly subscribers (together with 50 cents to pay for each subscriber so sent) may compete for the prizes.

2. All contributions must have the number of words they contain plainly noted thereon in addition to the writer's full name and address with some de plume if desired; must be written on one side of the paper only, enclosed in the same envelope as the letter and remittance for new subscriptions, and addressed to EDITOR NUTSHELL STORY CLUB care of COMFORT, AUGUSTA, MAINE.

3. All stories must be strictly original with the contributors, and must not have appeared in print before. Competitors may write upon any subject, whether based upon fact, fancy or fiction—of adventure, love, war, peace; of city or country life, or of experiences on land or sea—but no story must contain more than 2,000 or less than 1,000 words.

4. No manuscript will be returned under any circumstances and competitors should therefore retain a copy of what they send.

5. From \$5 to \$20 will be paid for stories, and remittances will be sent by check as soon as awards have been made.

No premiums will be given for subscriptions sent under this Short Story Prize Offer.

The Publishers of "Comfort" reserve the right to purchase at their established rates any stories submitted under the foregoing offer, which failed to secure a prize.

Writers who hear nothing of their manuscript may, at the end of 90 days after submitting them to "Comfort" feel at liberty to offer their stories for sale elsewhere.

PRIZE WINNERS FOR SEPTEMBER.

Charles E. Barns, First Prize.
Howard M. Strong, Second Prize.
Geo. H. Smith, Third Prize.
Barton McPhail, Fourth Prize.
E. C. Litsey, Fifth Prize.

A STOWAWAY WAG.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY CHARLES E. BARNES.

Copyright, 1900, by W. H. Gannett, Publisher.



BARTON moved up the gangplank peering through the groups for a familiar face. It lacked half an hour of sailing time and the big Cunarder was thronged, ten God-speeders to every voyager.

"Let's see," he mused at last, drawing forth a card bearing the simple legend "16," "Harvey may be below wrestling with the stewards. I'll surprise him." Down the gangway Tom slid along the mahogany after the manner of the confirmed sea-dog. Brushing now and then against busy, clean-jacketed stewards, he waded through various strata of tiffin-fumes, fresh paint and sea-bilge, at last standing before Stateroom 16. He rapped. As there was no response, Barton opened the door and passed in.

The room was empty—not even a handbag in sight. "So much the better," said the wag of the Players. "I'll climb into the upper berth and pelt him with pillows when he comes. He's bound to be here in a moment." He climbed stealthily into the top bunk, closing his eyes, feigning sleep and listening. The donkey-engine pounded, the longshoremen groaned and swore under heavy loads, there was a scuffle of feet overhead, but every laden voyager passed Stateroom 16. Tom felt to reviewing the events of the evening before.

What a glorious send-off he had given his college friend, Harvey Pease, at the Players! What viands, punch, song, repartee! Harvey had been three years in the mines of Brazil and was on his way to London, via New York, to complete a great deal. He was also, so Tom dimly suspected, bent on a matrimonial project—aye, this undoubting Thomas believed that the fair one in question was on this very ocean liner, else Harvey would have stayed over till the next sailing. How he would like to get just a glimpse of her! And so they had parted at four that morning, Tom promising to come down and wish his old comrade bon voyage. Strange! What could be keeping Harvey so late?

Tom awoke with a gasp. He felt a mighty throbbing, first through his fevered temples, then through all this Leviathan of the sea. Hark! No longer the clatter of the donkey-engines, the oaths of the longshoremen. Peering over the ledge, he saw that the stateroom was still empty. Then there came a slight rocking and his very heart stopped beating. Heavens! could it be possible? Floundering to the floor, Barton staggered to the porthole and clutched it, staring. Far over the horizon he saw the fading tip of Sandy Hook lighthouse.

In moments like these men of resources, particularly wags by profession, assume the aggressive through sheer staggering fright. Tom turned and caught a segment of his profile in the glass and saw that it was very pale. In-

stinctively both hands thrust into various pockets, disgorging. That discouraging search revealed a bunch of keys, a batch of rejected jokes, two unrecipited bills and forty-six cents in money. And he a stowaway, seven days from London! In his outstretched palms he weighed the paltry assets, setting his jaws.

"Brilliant!" he cut aloud through the salt spray. "The joker joked, the wag wagged, the wit outwitted." Then from sheer bravado, "I'll ring up the steward and order a b-and-a."

But with thumb on the push-button, Tom weakened. Stowaways did not usually do that sort of thing. They went to the captain, confessed all, got a blow and a kick and then nine days of coal-stoking. Any of that for the exquisite Tom Barton, crown jester of the Players? Nay, nay. Now that he recalled what other stowaways did, he resolved to do the very opposite. He plumped down on the edge of the berth and grew philosophic.

Another difficulty. To be discovered as a stowaway meant to be laughed at all the way to London and back again. If there is anything that the professional joker shrinks from it is the laugh—on the lips of the other fellow. And yet he must be up and doing. That stateroom was growing unspeakably odious. The walls seemed closing in upon him. Oh, the terror—not of being discovered a stowaway—but of the joke being cabled back to the Players! It would mean positive expatriation. At any rate he might steal out and run down the delinquent Harvey.

Guardedly Tom opened the door, peering out. Not a soul in sight. Through the chink he slipped, thrusting chin in air and with mustache a twist, bearded the deserted passageway. Again he drew forth the card, scanning it. This time it came up the other way and he read "91". How stupid! he had read the number upside down. By stealth Barton crossed amidships, scanning the white numbers. The door of Stateroom 91 was ajar. Tom peered through, and seeing the room empty, unhooked the door and passed in.

Several hampers and bags lay about, one lying open with a flask of cognac tempting in sight. "This is where I get at least one joke on Harvey," he mused as he appropriated the flask. Then helping himself to two oranges and a handful of apricots, Tom stole back to safety unseen. In a quiet nook the wag stowaway ate and drank like one famished, then wandered down through the intricacies of the throbbing hulk, not yet trusting himself to the decks.

Safe as a murderer in a crowded tenement, Barton roamed about trying to dispel the conviction in his heart that he was a criminal, jollying everybody from the second-cabin cook, from whom he stole two buns, to the printer at work on the morrow's menu, whom he robbed of a steamer-cap and his afternoon tea. After that he felt so like a cigar that he stole back to Stateroom 91, helped himself to a handful and thus armed resolved at once to beard the upper airs.

At the head of the gangway Tom came face to face with a very charming young lady in handsome traveling gown. She turned to reprove his staring impertinence with a frown, but her face instantly lighted. "Oh, Mr. Montague!" she cried. "Is it really you?" Then to the elder behind her, "Auntie, dear, see! Here's our good friend Mr. Montague. Narragansett Pier, you remember. How lovely! Why, I did not see your name on the passenger list—"

"Sh—h!" interposed the wag, seizing the proffered white hand of a man in a rushing torrent clutches a passing twig. "I'm—er—incog, don't you see?"

"Another Wall street deal, or are you going over to play before the Queen?"

"Ah, I assure you, in my present mood I feel capable of anything, if only you are once more my mascot—"

"The same dear old Jack Montague, Auntie, dear! how lovely to meet again."

"But aren't you a trifle stouter, Mr. Montague?" The elder's voice was somewhat muffled with the handles of her jeweled loggnettes through which she surveyed him. "You must change your seat to our table. So many stupid people, eh, Adele?"

"Particularly one," shot back the scornful beauty. Then came reminiscences, half truths, guarded confidences and promises to meet later on deck aft, and Barton sauntered on.

With the sang froid of a true gamester, Tom passed into the smoking-room. There to his amazement he caught a glimpse of his friend Harvey Pease seated opposite a portly gentleman radiant in a brandy flush and diamonds. Cards were flying between them though no money was in sight. Tom watched them furtively a time, then stole away. The hour was inopportune and the place unseemly for a meeting. Into the depths again Barton descended, making more friends with the help of the stolen cigars. Toward evening he wandered near Stateroom 91 and was amazed to see emerge therefrom not his friend of years, but the latter's late adversary over the green cloth. Tom's heart leaped; then as the tall man swept amidships, Barton slipped into the little chamber.

What a blunder! He had robbed the wrong man. Furtively he restored the empty flask; but as he did so, the sight of a pack of cards gave him a stir. He took them up, examining closely. There was no doubt of it—they were marked. He drove further through the open

portmanteau. The search revealed a professional crook-gambler's layout. Appropriating the cards, Barton slid back into Stateroom 13, and spent four hours over the intricacies of marked backs, mastering them. Then he stole back, restored the cards and sauntered up to the deck aft.

The night was starless and the deck lights none too brilliant, but the ladies recognized the solitary wanderer, hailing him and making room for a steamer-chair between them. Then the word-sparring began, "Mr. Montague" evasive and glittering in generalities, gathering all while giving nothing. After something of an hour of this, the fair Adele leaned across and breathed to her elder, "Here he comes, Auntie, dear. Now do find some excuse, you know—"

Barton looked up at the solitary figure advancing. It was Harvey Pease! The latter glared at the interloper so pleasantly ensconced, was presented to "Mr. Montague," and seated himself beside Adele. The Aunt grew confidential to Tom.

"Great bore. Met my niece on Brazilian steamer. Made desperate love and all that. Poor girl detests him. Do, Mr. Montague, do monopolize her as much as possible and make the dear girl's voyage less odious. You have such tact, y' know."

"Do my level best," sighed Barton, and resumed his catapult of interrogatives.

By eleven o'clock that night, at which hour they parted, Tom had the family history of the Raleighs, of which honorable house Miss Adele was sole daughter and heiress, up even to the threshold of the skeleton-closet; for the aunt, a perfect crypt of reminiscence and family adoration, gave all as a school girl confiding her first love-affair. For an hour more Barton sat and smoked the other man's cigars, then sauntered below, pausing at the blinds of the smoking-room to spy out Harvey Pease once more in the meshes of the made-up southron. "Harvey is playing two hard games against heavy odds," he mused as he turned unseen into Stateroom 16.

It was a sleepless night, and Barton turned out early, nor returned till late. During the day he roamed through the internal economics of the sea-behemoth, managed to 'sample' enough of the cooks' dainties to stave off hunger, and went to the 'cave' for the printer, aiding him in getting out 'The Tinpania Tidings,' a ship-bulletin issued at six-pence for the benefit of the Seamen's Home. That evening the printer worked his press overtime, for the 'Tidings' simply bulged with brilliancy, convulsing the ship and netting the Seamen's Home two pounds ten. That night Mr. Jack Montague spent three delicious hours on the deck aft in company with the Raleighs to the light of the dim stars and the threatening gleams from the pallid face and angry eyes of Harvey Pease, who, as usual, drowned defeat in love by a plunge in the ocean of hazard. On the morning of the third day of Tom's stowaway-ship the ship's printer resigned to him the editorial chair, reportorial staff, press and entire plant of 'The Tinpania Tidings,' and stewards fell over one another in their efforts to keep the brilliant feuilletonist, poet and wag in tea and biscuit. The 'Tidings' from henceforth simply staggered the ship and the Seamen's Home fund rolled up. Nightly the usual seance took place on the deck aft, 'Mr. Montague' keeping his promise to monopolize Miss Raleigh, noting with alarm, however, that Harvey Pease was growing hourly more moon-eyed and cadaverous. About midnight of the sixth, at the parting moment, Miss Raleigh gazed beseechingly into the calm eyes of the man of expedients, and said, "Mr. Montague, do you remember what you said to me under the elms just one year ago to-night?"

"Montague" trembled. "Ah, who could ever forget?" he murmured, vaguely.

"And though I refused you, for I did not know my own heart then, you said, 'Adele, dear, if ever you change your mind, speak only the word and I will come to you.' Do you remember, Mr.—J—Jack?"

"But much has happened since then, my dear Miss—Adele. All is changed—"

"Not in your heart, I hope—don't say that—"

"No, but in my fortunes. I have lost all my money, Adele—all!" He bent low with a painful simulation of a sob.

"Oh, is that all? Why, I thought you meant something serious. Besides, Jack, why worry about that? I have enough for both, you know that, don't you?"

The wag began to sweat blood. "See here!" he cried in despair. "I'm a scoundrel—an arrant criminal. Come down here where there are no eavesdroppers and I will tell you the whole thing." He drew her into the shadows, seizing her hand as if she would fly from him, and whispered penitently. "Miss Raleigh, I—I'm not 'Jack Montague' as you have all along thought, but I'm just plain Tom Barton, of New York; as good a man as Jack Montague or any other man, and I love you a thousand times more than he or any one else on earth ever loved you or ever will. There!"

Half an hour later Barton passed by the smoking-room just as the door flew wide and out into the night came Harvey Pease with the air of a whipped panther. Barton saw it all, and resolved to revenge Harvey on the gambler,

taking his place at the green cloth opposite the crook, with a capital of forty-six cents, a bronze face and an intimate knowledge of marked cards. Five hours of play, and then Tom Barton turned into Stateroom 16 with just twenty-three hundred dollars of Harvey's losses recovered. Next morning they met.

The comrades clasped hands in staggering silence, then Harvey broke loose. "My salvation!" he cried. "Did you drop straight from heaven to save me from suicide? Tom, I'm well-nigh insane. I've lost nearly all I possess—twenty-nine hundred dollars—to a scoundrel of a ship gambler. I've also lost the sweetest girl on earth—the only woman I ever loved—to a miserable interloper by the name of 'Montague,' whom I am going to challenge to a duel; and you are to be my second."

"Too busy," broke in the wag. He produced a goodly roll. "Here, Harvey, if you will promise never to touch a card again, I'll restore your losses, to the tune of two thousand and more, which I recovered from the crook gamester. Sorry I can't recover so easily from 'Mr. Montague.' Good bye! I'm Editor-in-chief of the 'Tinpania Tidings' and the devils are waiting for copy." With that Tom left his comrade.

The last number of the 'Tidings' was a wonder for wit; but two paragraphs alone are worthy of quotation here:

"A STOWAWAY.—It may interest Captain Kilrain and his seven-day guests to know that a gentleman stowaway has occupied Stateroom 16 for the entire voyage. As, however, the Seamen's Home fund is richer by about 80 pounds sterling through his efforts on the 'Tinpania Tidings,' may he be forgiven!"

"AT THE SIGN OF THE SMOKING-ROOM.—A professional ship-gambler has won over \$7,000 on this voyage, nearly \$3,000 from one young victim alone. A reporter for the 'Tidings' penetrated the stateroom of the crook and found there a complete snide-game layout, marked cards and all. 'Tidings' suggests that the captain place the offender under immediate arrest."

"SOCIETY NOTE.—The engagement of Miss Adele Raleigh of Baltimore, to Mr. T. Jack Montague-Barton, of New York, is announced."

THE FOURTEENTH GUEST.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY HOWARD MARCUS STRONG.

Copyright, 1900, by W. H. Gannett, Publisher.



IN all Paris there is no stranger sign than the one displayed opposite the Vincennes railway station, just where the Rue de Lyon leads out from the Place de la Bastille. It is a very modest little announcement, lettered in black and gold, and swung above the entrance to a narrow, unlighted flight of steps. Those who pause to turn away with a smile or jeer, have learned that—

"This Agency Supplies a Fourteenth Guest When Desired."

M. Loisir had never seen this curious sign but once, yet it made so lasting an impression upon his memory that, some six months later, he was able to recall the exact location of the agency. With all other intelligent persons, he had sneered at such pandering to popular superstition; and once he had felt constrained to

Book of Gold Mines Free!

A prominent Denver publisher who is familiar with every phase of life in the Cripple Creek (Colorado) gold camp has just published a volume which he styles "Cripple Creek Illustrated." The book contains nearly 100 views of the big gold mines of the camp, a correct map, and in fact a world of information. Full reports of ore mined, dividends paid, etc. The edition cost \$1000 to issue. To introduce his big illustrated weekly family paper (founded 1890) he will send you a copy of "Cripple Creek Illustrated" and his paper 13 weeks on trial for 25c. Clubs of 5, \$1. Stamps taken. Latest mining news and western stories. Mention our paper when you write and address, Illustrated Weekly, Denver, Colorado.

WANTED AGENTS in every county to sell "Family Memorials;" good profits and steady work. Address, CAMPBELL & CO., 151 Plum St., Elgin, Ill.

\$100.00 PER MONTH and expenses paid the right man for selling our famous Poultry Food. For full instructions, FREE, address LAMBERT FOOD CO., Dept. 37, Parsons, Kas.

GUITAR, MANDOLIN, VIOLIN, BANJO, PIANO AND ORGAN Self-Taught, without Notes, by Figure Music. Big Illustrated Catalog of Self-Instructors and Instruments sent FREE. We ship the first instrument to each locality at a big discount, simply in advance our goods and establish a trade. Address E. C. HOWE, 439 Bay State Bldg., CHICAGO

17 JEWELLED adjusted, patent regulator, stem wind and movement. Ladies or Gents size. WARRANTED 20 YEARS. 18k Gold plate hunting case, elegantly engraved. Fit for a king. No better watch made. Must be seen to be appreciated. Special Offer for next 60 days, send your full name and address and we will send this watch FREE. With privilege to examine. If C.O.D. with privilege to examine. No return charge. A guarantee and beautiful chain and charm set free with every watch. Write at once on this only get money back. NAT'L. W. & J. IMPORTING CO. 234 Dearborn St., B 218, CHICAGO, Ill.

paragraph the matter in the "Temps," for such an ignorant survival of a benighted age merited the keen thrust of his pasquinade.

Being a jovial bachelor with many friends, M. Loisir was wont to celebrate his birthday with a yearly dinner. It was upon one of these pleasant occasions that he was suddenly confronted by a startling exigency. A quick glance about the room had disclosed the fact that, of the fifteen guests bidden, only twelve were present. Adding himself to this number, the distressed host saw that an unlucky thirteen would soon surround his board.

At this crisis the agency in the Rue de Lyon was called to mind. There was not a moment to lose. A servant was dispatched to the proper address with the most urgent order for a fourteenth guest. Meanwhile, M. Loisir, with his ready wit, strove to divert the gentlemen from the contemplation of their empty stomachs. He liberated whole flocks of new jokes, and unreeling meters of sparkling verse; he recounted more bloody adventures than twelve strong men could believe; his remarks grew incoherent, while the perspiration started out upon his forehead; his eyes followed the galloping hands of the clock, and his ear was strained to catch the first click of the door-latch. It came at last.

"Ah!" cried M. Loisir, springing to his feet and darting into the entry, "the belated guest has arrived." Whereat the twelve gentlemen sighed with relief and made ready for the advance upon the dining-room.

There was an exclamation of surprise from the entry, and the voice of M. Loisir was heard raised in protest. A moment later the portieres were drawn aside, and the host appeared with a beautiful woman leaning on his arm. His face was a study of conflicting emotions.

"Gentlemen," he said, "it is unnecessary for me to introduce you—every one present is so fortunate as to know Mlle. D'Artois. What strange chance has brought her as a benediction to our bachelor dinner we will no doubt learn in time. But first of all, let us see what provision the caterer has made to allay the cruel pangs of hunger."

It was a very quiet company until the last course was served. This was perhaps due to vigorous appetites and a certain embarrassed restraint. M. Loisir was like a man who dreams that he is dreaming and only awaits the denouement. Mlle. D'Artois attempted a little gayety, but it sounded forced and unnatural. The gray-haired Hinemar at last made bold to drag forward the subject that each one was revolving in his own mind.

"My dear," he said, turning to Mlle. D'Artois, "why keep us in suspense any longer? Who holds the magic key, you or our good host Loisir? Come, we are all old friends, unlock this pleasant little mystery and let us laugh with you."

"Let M. Loisir lead," she replied lightly, "and I will follow suit. If he jests, then will I. If he speaks sober truth, you shall hear the same from my lips. But in the latter case you will all be grievously disappointed, for a matter of francs can hardly be romantic."

"Then let us have both," cried Captain Fronsac, "truth from M. Loisir and romance from Mlle. D'Artois."

But the majority were for the truth and nothing but the truth. "Begin! begin!" they insisted. "We are dying of curiosity."

"My kind friends," said M. Loisir, with some hesitation, "you may have seen my paragraph in the 'Temps,' in which I ridiculed a certain superstition that still flourishes in this enlightened age."

"I recall it," observed M. Pepin, the journalist. "It was very well put. I confess to reproducing it without crediting the source."

"I only mentioned it," continued M. Loisir, modestly, "in order that you might know how free I am from the common belief in signs and omens. However it was probable that, of the company this evening, one might fear to make the thirteenth at my table; for it is said that one of such a gathering always dies within a year. Delaying the dinner, I sent to the agency in the Rue de Lyon for a fourteenth guest, but failed to specify that a gentleman was desired. To my astonishment Mlle. D'Artois returned with the messenger. I feel honored beyond words of expression, but am as much mystified as any one else."

"This grows interesting," laughed Count de Valery, as M. Loisir ceased speaking. "I think our novelist must already scent a plot. Eh, Roberval?"

"No, no," replied Roberval, "I see nothing so far—only that friend Loisir could not be tempted to sit down with thirteen at the table."

M. Loisir's protest was drowned in the general laughter, and there were calls for Mlle. D'Artois's story.

"What I am about to say," the lady began, when quiet was restored, "may be truth or it may be fiction—or both. I claim that as my prerogative. I will begin at the end."

"What brought me here was of course M. Loisir's message to the agency. What brought me to the agency was a pressing need of money. You all look surprised! You have doubtless believed me a very great heiress; yet I confess that I am forced to serve this agency for twenty francs a night. M. Loisir will be obliged to pay fifty francs for my presence, and the agency will gain the difference."

KING'S EVIL.

How Ignorance and Superstition go Hand in Hand.

A curious sight might have been seen in England a couple of centuries ago. At Whitehall or some other royal residence a little group of people would shrinkingly await the coming of the king, in order to be "touched for the evil." The specific "evil" was scrofula, and it was the popular belief that scrofula could be cured by the royal touch. Hence the common name for scrofula was King's Evil.

Nowadays we know that scrofula is a disease of the blood and that even were there magic in a kingly touch, no external treatment could cure scrofula. The medicine which cures scrofula must deal with the blood. It must be able to eradicate and eliminate the poisons which corrupt the blood and breed and feed disease. When the blood is cleansed, the pimples, blotches, boils and other eruptions disappear, ulcers and sores are healed and the flesh becomes sound and healthy.

THE RIGHT WAY to cleanse the blood from scrofula is to choose that remedy which has cured thousands of people who suffered from scrofula in its most grievous forms.

"I am using a good many of your medicines in my practice," writes Dr. Joseph Fike, of Lost Springs, Marion Co., Kansas. "Ten years ago there was an emigration from Russia

to this country and there was a lady in the company who was badly affected with that dreadful disease, scrofula. Her mouth and throat were in an awful condition, and there were lumps on the outside, below the jaws, the size of a hen's egg. Other doctors had been called and they said it was a fatal case. I was called and made my diagnosis. I felt confident that none of my remedies would benefit her any. It came to my mind that Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery was recommended for such cases, so I went to the drug store and bought one bottle and gave it to her to use as directed. Five bottles cured her and she is well to-day. She is married now and has three healthy children."

Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery judged solely by the cures it has effected is without doubt the most powerful and most perfect blood purifying medicine of the century. It is a radical remedy. It goes to the root of the disease. Some preparations containing mineral poisons such as mercury are offered as cures for scrofula. These medicines only suppress the symptoms of disease for a while and give the skin a look of clearness, but after a time the suppressed disease like a smothered fire breaks out anew and with a new violence.

It is the uniform testimony of those who have been cured of scrofulous diseases by the use of "Golden Medical Discovery," that the cure is permanent. In many instances the testimonial to the cure has not been offered until the lapse of several years proved how thoroughly and lastingly the medicine had done its work.

No class of people are more grateful for the blood purifying power of the "Discovery" than women whose faces have been marked and marred by pimples and other eruptions. The smooth skin and clear complexion which come back when "Golden Medical Discovery" has swept the blood clean of its corrupting poisons, are a source of unfeigned delight to those who for years have had their beauty marred by some form of eruptive disease. Beauty begins in the blood, and the first step to beauty is to cleanse the blood of the corrupting impurities which weaken the body and befoul the flesh.

THE SCOURGE OF CIVILIZATION.

From half civilized or unsanitary countries come the plagues which decimate the teeming populations of the Orient. Sanitary science and medical skill have banished the plagues from among ourselves, but civilization has its own scourge in that form of scrofula which attacks the lungs and is popularly known as consumption.

Plagues are not persistent. They appear and disappear again for years. Scrofula of the lungs or consumption is a persistent disease. Every day of every year it gathers in its victims; one-sixth of all deaths from disease being attributed to consumption. Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery cures scrofula wherever it finds it. It eliminates the scrofulous poison from the blood and so the organs which are fed by blood are relieved from the scrofulous

poisons which destroy them. Obsolete, deep-seated coughs, bronchitis, bleeding of the lungs and similar dangerous forms of disease are perfectly and permanently cured by "Golden Medical Discovery."

"Dr. Pierce's medicine has not only benefited me greatly but it has done wonders for my two sons," writes Mrs. M. Hartick, of Demster, Oswego Co., N. Y. "Both had scrofula. I have lost two daughters in less than five years with consumption and scrofula. My eldest son was taken two or three years ago with hemorrhage from the lungs. It troubled him for over a year. He took Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery and has not had a hemorrhage in over a year. My younger son had scrofulous sores on his neck; had two lanced, but has not had any since he commenced to take your medicine."

ABSOLUTELY RELIABLE.

"Golden Medical Discovery" can be absolutely relied on as a safe and sure medicine for diseases caused by a scrofulous condition of

the blood. It cures disease of skin and scalp, eczema, salt-rheum, tetter, scrofulous sores and swellings, as well as scrofula of the lungs and other diseases having their origin in a corrupt condition of the blood.

Accept no substitute for "Golden Medical Discovery." There is no other medicine "just as good" for the cure of scrofulous diseases.

FREE TO ALL.

Dr. Pierce's Common Sense Medical Adviser, 1008 large pages and over 700 illustrations, is sent free on receipt of

stamps to pay expense of mailing only. Send 31 one-cent stamps for the book in cloth binding, or only 21 stamps if satisfied to have the book in paper-covers. Address Dr. R. V. Pierce, Buffalo, N. Y.

"Ah, my dear," said the grizzled Hinemar, with tears in his eyes, "this is a shame. Why have you not come to me, your old friend, and told all your troubles? God knows that you are welcome to everything that I have."

"It is the same with us all, Mlle. D'Artois," said M. Loisir, earnestly. "If I might devote some of my useless riches to your comfort, it would make me the happiest man in light-hearted France."

"O you must not talk so!" cried Mlle. D'Artois. "You will have me in tears if you continue, and that would dampen the humor of the situation."

After a moment's silence she continued: "There are some women who would seek marriage as a release from such a difficulty. I—I have been thinking of it myself; but without a fortune—"

"Annette," said Hinemar, solemnly, "there are thirteen good, honorable, unmarried gentlemen here this evening. Will it please you to bestow your hand upon any one of them?"

"But what if they—what if he should refuse?" she ventured.

"Refuse!" exclaimed Hinemar. "Refuse? If he refused, girl, it would be the very last sin he committed in this world."

"O you are very terrible," she said, laughing softly. "But I will tell you a secret. Every gentleman here has already asked for my hand—I mean all but one."

The gentlemen stole indignant glances at each other, turned very red, coughed distressingly, and waited for the embarrassing pause to be bridged over.

"And may we know the name of this one who has come so far short of his duty?" inquired Captain Fronsac. "I move that we make it unanimous."

A chair was pushed back at the head of the table, and M. Loisir, very white and agitated, moved to where Mlle. D'Artois was seated.

"Annette," he said firmly, "I have never had the courage to speak when we were alone. The presence and example of my friends emboldens me. Believe me, I have loved you for years. Will you bestow your hand upon me?"

"Bravo! bravo!" cried Roberval, drawing pencil and tablet from his pocket. "Proceed! I take notes for a new novel."

"You make me very happy, Felix," Mlle. D'Artois replied, when M. Loisir pressed her for an answer; "but I must not be unfair to my other friends. Listen all! I am resolved to take for my husband one of the gentlemen here to-night. What can be fairer than to decide it by lot—are you agreed? Do not answer. It shall be so."

M. Loisir groaned and went to his chair in great distress.

"She has no feeling," he told himself, "or she would not resort to such cruel torture."

With much deliberation each of the thirteen suitors wrote his name on a slip of paper and deposited it in a large Japanese vase. To insure equal chances, M. Loisir was made to shake up the names in the vase and present it to Mlle. D'Artois for the drawing.

"It will be the first one," she said tremulously, "and I will abide by the oracle."

Her hand disappeared in the vase and her fingers brought up a tiny strip of paper. Her eyes scanned it narrowly, then it was permitted to flutter back into the jar.

"Yes—you are a very—nervous writer—M. Loisir," she said.

Crash! went the Japanese vase, and M. Loisir was holding Mlle. D'Artois in his arms.

"My prize!" he murmured. "My prize!"

Very sadly the guests shook hands with the happy couple, and congratulated M. Loisir on his rare good fortune, while inwardly cursing their own bad luck. Then they had the good taste to withdraw.

"You will at least permit me to announce it in the morning paper," pleaded M. Pepin, the journalist. "It will create a sensation, I promise you. May I make it a half column?" To this there were no objections offered.

"Annette," said Felix Loisir, when he was finally left alone with his fourteenth guest, "if you love me with a whole heart, how could you so lightly trust our future happiness to chance?"

"Dear Felix," she replied, "I could not read the names on the slips."

"Could not?"

"No; for love is blind."

"But my name, you—"

"Ah, the heart will speak!"

When they were out in the cool night air, and on the way to the stately mansion of her father, Annette said:

"Felix, I have one more confession."

"Well?"

"I am a 'Daughter of the Cross,' and we may only consecrate to charity that which we earn by our own labors. So, you see—"

M. Loisir saw.

THE SIGN ON THE GATE.

A Story of Missionary Life in China at the Present Time.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY GEORGE H. SMITH.

Copyright, 1900, by W. H. Gannett, Publisher.



EUNICE PORTER walked across the room which she used as an office in her neat little Chinese house, and lifting a slender ebony rod, struck the bronze gong which hung beside the door.

This gong looked like a miniature Chinese pagoda, with one artistically carved story hung above another. When the ebony stick ran down from top to bottom a deep melodious chord of sound filled all the house and floated out through the bamboo walls into the garden.

Dr. Porter waited a moment, and then, when Wan Tche, her little Chinese man-servant who should have answered the summons, did not appear, she struck two chords on the gong. This was the signal for the cook, whose domain, although in the back of the house, was yet within easy hearing. Still there was no response.

"This is very strange," said Dr. Porter to herself, and went to look for some one whom she could send on an errand. When she found no one but herself in the house she opened the street door and stepped outside. While she stood there, looking down the street, the door swung to behind her. When the young woman turned to enter the house again she saw upon the outside of the door, staring her full in the face, a sprawling dull red stain of human blood.

Stepping quickly inside the gate the woman locked the door and double bolted it, and hastening through the house made fast all the other entrances. Then she sat down in the office and took counsel with herself. She knew now why the servants had not answered her call. They had seen the mark on the door and had fled the house as if it had been plague stricken.

Dr. Eunice Porter was a medical missionary who had been living in one of the Chinese cities for six years, and working among the natives there. Her work had seemed successful, and she had felt that she had won the confidence and regard of the people to an unusual extent. Never until the Boxer trouble had arisen had there been any public intimation of ill will, and now, to find that she had been

marked for death did not cause her fear so much as grief.

For that was what the dull red mark on the street door meant. Dr. Porter knew Oriental life well enough to read the warning. A sullen, ugly mob already might be gathering before the house—she listened involuntarily for the sound. Perhaps it might be night before they would come, or even the morrow, but come they would, and all means of escape from the city had been shut off for days. All the white residents but herself and a few of the teachers in a mission school had left the city long ago, before the army had encamped about the place. Her friends had urged her to go with them, but she had refused, and would not even leave her own house to join the teachers in the school. She had told herself that she would not be harmed. She had always placed great confidence in the gratitude which the people had seemed to feel for the good which her medical skill had done them.

Was this to be her reward? Had she forgotten or underestimated the jealousy and hatred which her cures had stirred up in the hearts of the native "witch-like" doctors?

She thought once of trying to reach the mission, but knew in her heart that it was now too late to do this. Even if she dared pass through the streets she would find the same dread seal on the door of that house too. Perhaps the mission was already destroyed and the teachers slain.

The hours of the day passed, and the woman waited. In mid-afternoon she heard coming the sounds for which she had listened. A murmur which grew to a roar, advancing up the street and centering before her door. Men's voices, and the shriller ones of women. She wondered why they did not break down the door at once. Then the sound was hushed, and she heard one voice speaking—some one whom she had helped perhaps, pleading for her life. All gratitude was not lost, then. She was thankful for that.

"Tapi yang kuei tze; tapi, tapi!" (Kill the foreign devils; kill, kill!) a shrill voice shouted, and the din began once more. Blows were struck against the gate.

The doctor opened a desk in her office and took a tiny bottle from among those neatly placed there. She would not open it until the last moment, but it was a relief to know that one breath from its contents would be sufficient—that even after the mob had broken into that very room she could put her real self beyond their reach. Her dead body she could not save—she had seen human heads carried through the city on long bamboo stakes—but her life, and the power to make her suffer, she could put beyond the reach of these men.

The tumult grew louder, and then hushed again. What now? Was some other grateful friend risking his life to plead for her? There was silence except for a knocking on the gate, and then, when the door was not opened, a loud voice cried imperiously, "Open, in the name of his Highness, Prince Ki, the ruler of this province!"

The woman in the house could not comprehend what this meant, but she made no move to obey. The summons must be some ruse of the mob. Prince Ki was said to be a well-meaning man, but his wife, a woman of royal blood, was one of the most bitter reactionaries in all the empire. She had great influence over her husband, and it was said that she had secretly incited the uprising in the province.

"Open, in the name of the ruler of the province!" The summons came again, and then, when no one answered, a stronger blow upon the gate broke the lock and bolts and sent the door inward.

The woman in the office, peeping out through a lattice, saw standing in the gateway the chief envoy of Prince Ki himself, gorgeous in his official uniform. Behind him stood his escort, and slinking back from them, huddled in the street, the men and women who formed the mob, cowed into silence.

One other thing the woman saw. When the door had swung back she had seen the death stain on it, but she had also seen, stamped over this, the huge yellow seal which was the sign of Prince Ki himself, a symbol which was omnipotent in the province. So long as that sign was on her house the missionary knew that not all the men in the city, fanatics though they might be, dare harm the house or any one in it.

The missionary opened the office door and stood in full view of all the company.

"What do you want?" she asked in Chinese of the envoy.

The minister made a profound obeisance. "Madam," he said, "the little son of the noble Prince Ki is ill unto death. His Highness begs that you will come to save his life." The messenger waited a moment, and then added, "Madam, the most noble Princess Ki Wang also begs that you will come."

In the few minutes that she stood there listening many thoughts flashed through the woman's mind. Never, in all the six years she had lived in China, had the Princess sent for her, nor had she ever seen her royal Highness. Was this a trap? She knew, though, of the little Prince. He was an only son, the child of his parents in their old age. The cry for help might be an honest one. The instincts of the physician conquered.

"I will go," she said. It was not the first time that Dr. Eunice Porter had faced death. Taking a medicine case from the office, and still keeping the little glass vial in her hand, Dr. Porter walked into the street. At a sign from the prince's envoy four coolies in government livery brought up a sedan chair. The missionary entered it and was rapidly borne away.

The road to the palace passed the mission house. Dr. Porter, looking from behind the curtains of the chair saw what she had feared, the same red sign of death upon the closed street gate, but as yet, thank God, no mob had gathered before the walls. Would they surge there from her house, disappointed of one victim to seek another?

The coolies, running swiftly, carried her through the palace gates while she was still wondering over the fate of her fellow countrywomen. Almost at once she found herself taken into the inner apartments of the palace—into which no foreigner had ever been admitted before—and near to the room where the sick boy was. The Prince himself was walking up and down an outer room.

"Go in," he said. "Lose no time! else he may be dead," and drew a silken curtain from before a door.

Inside the room the missionary saw a child

cushions, weak and unconscious, but at ease. The physician, sitting by his side, looked up to find before her, dressed in richest silk, a woman ashen-faced with fear and grief, and knew that for the first time she was in the presence of the Princess Ki Wang.

Their eyes met, and for a full minute the two women studied each other—a Chinese royal princess and a New England woman doctor. The princess spoke.

"Will my son live?" she whispered.

"I cannot say, now," the doctor answered, speaking in the native dialect of the province. "The night will show." Then she turned and taking from her case a white tablet dissolved a portion of it and placed the liquid between the boy's lips. In that minute of time, when she had been looking into the royal mother's eyes, the physician had resolved to save not only her own life but that of her fellow teachers in the mission.

An hour later the doctor sent for Prince Ki and the boy's mother, and had them see the child. He was still quiet, but it seemed almost the quiet of death. He did not move, and hardly breathed. Sending all the servants from the room the doctor talked long and earnestly to the frightened parents. When she had done, the princess cried eagerly to her husband: "Go! Send at once! Lose no time! May the gods grant we be not too late!"

Five minutes later, the doctor, heard through the lattice window the steps of a company of men hastening from the palace. As soon as she was alone in the room she took another vial from her case, and dropping a portion of the contents into a porcelain cup half full of water, began to give the remedy to her patient at regular intervals.

When daylight came to the palace joy came with it, for the sick boy was said to be out of danger. Though he lay back on the cushions weak and faint, his eyes were open and he was conscious and could speak. When the parents were willing to let the white doctor go from the palace they would have given her gold and a jewel worthy the life of the son of a prince, but she refused them all.

"The ruler of this city, and the Princess Ki Wang," she said, "are able to give that which is of far greater value to me than gold and jewels."

And so it was that when her sedan chair was borne back to her house, to which she found the servants had already returned, she saw as she passed the mission that over the red death stain on the gate had been set the yellow symbol of royal protection.

THE BELT OF DEATH.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY BURTON MCPHAIL.

Copyright, 1900, by W. H. Gannett, Publisher.



SYDNEY Janvrin was at Bombay making purchases for another trip to the interior. Maskuki, a guide whom he had picked up somewhere in the town was with him.

This guide was generally considered a thoroughly bad man, ready to commit any crime for personal gain. A beautiful eye made the man twice as dangerous, for it would seem that no man could look deep within and suspect the true character of the man.

Doctor Tupper learned of the guide whom Janvrin had chosen and started at once for the latter's rooms, hoping to persuade him to get rid of Maskuki before he left the city. To his surprise and chagrin, however, the doctor found that he was one day too late, Janvrin having started the previous day.

Five days out of the city Janvrin became sick with malaria and for ten days scarcely left his tent. During this time the Hindoo proved a most solicitous servant, apparently doing all in his power to relieve his master.

"I have a considerable sum of money deposited at a bank in Bombay," said Janvrin one morning after a particularly bad night; "in case anything happens to me, take this bank-book and letter you will find in it and go to the bank; the money that will be paid you, you are to keep."

A day passed, however, and Janvrin seemed somewhat better.

"If the master could find strength to make a one day's journey to the North, he would find health again," said the Hindoo, "there is a great doctor twelve miles from here who could soon put him on his feet again."

The following day, the sick man feeling still better, the journey was attempted, Maskuki carrying all the luggage, Janvrin dragging himself along as best he could, stopping whenever he found his strength leave him. It was late at night when at last they arrived.

"Maskuki has with him a sick master," said the Hindoo, having greeted the doctor, "and he would beg you to restore him to health, good Salimkula."

A few other words were spoken in the native tongue which Janvrin did not understand at that time, though he learned their true import a few days later.

"Salimkula has power to make the white man well again," said the doctor, bowing graciously, "come within and rest while I prepare the medicine which shall bring new life."

Two hours passed before the doctor was seen again, though Janvrin could hear him at work a short distance away. When at length he did come, he brought a curious belt made of snake-skin and which he held carefully, as though afraid of injuring it.

"Salimkula is a great magician and doctor," said he, stooping beside the sick man, "permit him to loosen the clothing and fasten this belt about thee; it is the wonderful belt of life made solely by Salimkula, whose fame has gone throughout the land."

Defiantly the Hindoo now loosened Janvrin's garments and in little more time than it takes to tell of it the belt was securely fastened about Janvrin's loins.

"Keep this belt about thee for one week," said the doctor, "and upon no occasion remove it. Taking the medicine that I now hand thee, you will be able to start on the morrow and one week from now new life will have entered the diseased body and forgotten will be the sickness and pain of the past few days."

The following morning Janvrin indeed did find himself much better, so that an early start was made. At noon, however, he complained of a feeling of pain both in the head and chest, something different than any he had experienced in the past. Maskuki, however, made light of it, affirming that it was sure to follow severe cases of malaria, and that shortly it would pass; in the meantime they must hasten forward, lest night overtake them in the jungle.

The pain which Janvrin complained of presently subsided and the march was pressed with more vigor, though a certain unaccountable feeling of weight both on the head and chest oppressed him.

The next day Janvrin found that though the fever was abated, new and strange feelings of pain and uneasiness had taken possession of him, and at noon, after traveling for four hours, refused to go farther, affirming that he was unable to advance another step.

Here they remained several days, Janvrin constantly growing worse, acute pains constantly harassing him, his skin taking on a peculiar tinge of green which was gradually deepening. His temperature was five degrees above normal, pulse light and exceedingly rapid and his breath came in short painful gasps. It was evident that the sick man was fast approaching death.

Several times had Janvrin suggested the casting off of the belt which the doctor had fastened about him, but each time was the Hindoo ready with some excuse, affirming that in that alone was Janvrin's hope of final recovery. Finally, however, while Maskuki was absent securing a sack of water, he managed to unhook the belt and was about to toss it to one side, when the thought occurred to him that it might be well to examine more closely the snakeskin.

The belt was about half an inch thick midway between the two ends and gradually tapered to less than an eighth of an inch. The greatest width was at the center, being at that point about three inches across. The careless eye would perceive nothing peculiar about this belt, but looking closely, Janvrin discovered a tiny duct that seemed to lead directly into the thickest part of the belt; this duct was little larger than a fine needle.

Taking out his knife, Janvrin quickly cut the belt open between the lining and the snakeskin. That which he now beheld was a revelation in more ways than one. Within this belt was a minute mechanism, as delicately put together as the works of a watch. Even after the knife had opened the skin the tiny wheels were moving with perfect regularity. The duct which had first aroused his suspicions, Janvrin found was in direct communication with a little sack containing a green fluid.

Instantly did light break upon the sick man. Slowly but surely was he being poisoned to death at the hands of Maskuki and the native doctor. The motive—the bank account at Bombay.

Quickly taking thread and needle from his case, Janvrin now sewed the belt together, meanwhile watching sharply for the Hindoo's return. Scarcely had he finished when he came bearing the sack of water.

Something in Janvrin's eyes told the native that there was trouble in store for him, for he trembled as he stood before the white man.

"I want you to fasten this belt about you, Maskuki," said Janvrin, drawing his revolver, "I mean it; inside of thirty seconds it must be about you, or I shall blow out your brains."

For ten seconds the Hindoo stood like a statue before Janvrin, his face drawn and eyes starting from their sockets, Janvrin covering him with cocked revolver. Suddenly he sprang at the white man with the fury of a tiger, and had Janvrin been less watchful he would have succeeded in his purpose. As it was, however, he had covered less than half the six paces that separated the two men, when the revolver spoke, and the Hindoo lay dead at his feet.

Gradually Janvrin began to recuperate and a fortnight from the death of Maskuki he started for Bombay, which city he reached without incident worthy of note.

Carrying the belt to a chemist, the green fluid which it contained was analyzed and found to be identical with the poison of a snake little less venomous than the deadly cobra. One minute drop injected once in six hours had almost accomplished its work.

HELD FOR RANSOM.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY E. CARL LITSEY.

Copyright, 1900, by W. H. Gannett, Publisher.



OLDDUST Gulch was in an uproar, and not without cause. It was not a new find; it was not a bar-room brawl ending in a double death; it was not the announcement that Coyote Charlie was going to quit drinking and make a man of himself. Such things as these were common, and no one paid any attention to them. A far more astounding thing had happened this morning, but we must go back a couple of weeks, in order to lead up to it.

Just fourteen days previous to this a stranger had come riding into Golddust Gulch late one afternoon. He was a dark man, and tall, for the slim legs which hung down on either side of the little gray burro he bestrode almost touched the ground. As he pulled up in front of the saloon, which was everybody's stopping-place,

the men standing there eyed him as openly and as boldly as they would a caged curiosity. He was clad in a neat black suit, and his shoulders seemed trying to meet in front of his breast. His eyes were red, as from having shed tears, and his cheeks were hollow. But the citizens of Golddust Gulch attributed the inflamed condition of his eyes to the dust and wind, for they could not exactly comprehend how a man could weep. He made known that he had come out to hunt his fortune, staked out a claim, and went to work.

Barton Burrows was the tenderest tenderfoot that had ever struck a mining camp. He would take all sorts of rough treatment, and never resent anything. As a consequence, he was held in profound contempt by all the citizens, and his presence among them was simply borne, nothing else.

How it happened no one could tell, but soon it became rumored that he had suffered a great affliction in the near past. His wife and little girl had died of a disease which was epidemic in the south, and he had come out here to forget his sorrow in hard work. And when they heard this story which some stray wind blew to them, they remembered the red eyes and sunken cheeks of the tenderfoot, and some pitied him. But he was quiet as a woman, and slunk to and from his work without a word to any one. Two weeks after he came, Golddust Gulch was thrown into an uproar.

The barkkeeper of the Jolly Boys was found dead in his bed that morning with his throat neatly cut; the strong box under his bed was rifled of its store of wealth, and pinned to the top of the bar with the very dagger which had done the deadly work was a scrap of white paper, on which was written in pencil: "Compliments of the tenderfoot."

The camp was wild with amazement and rage, but the dark hollows of the surrounding hills safely kept the man who had fled to them for shelter.

A few months went by, then the stage coach to Silver City was held up by a single man, and its passengers relieved of all valuables about their person. The man who committed this daring piece of devilment was masked, but Four-fingered Fred, the stage driver, stated that he was a tall man with drooping shoulders; very thin, and dressed in black. Not long after a mining boss was passing through to superintend the sinking of some new shafts. He was the only occupant of the stage, and though Four-fingered Fred swore roundly that he would never be caught napping again, his hands went up so quickly at the sharp command of the knight of the road, that his lines dropped. This time the passenger himself was confiscated, and only obtained his liberty by parting with five thousand dollars.

The citizens of Golddust Gulch were, alone, perhaps, all who knew the identity of this terror of the Silver City trail. Then they forgot their grudge against him in admiration of his boldness, and proudly proclaimed to every new comer that they had schooled Black Barton, the road agent.

How such news reached him will ever remain an impenetrable mystery, but Black Barton never failed to know beforehand when a person with money was to travel over the road where he operated. And such persons he in-

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 5.)

St. Vitus Dance. One bottle Dr. M. M. Fenner's Specific cures. By mail. Send for Circular, Fredonia, N.Y.

Ripe tomatoes will remove ink-stains from cloth and also from the hands.

Can you use three dollars a day? Of course you can. Every person can. See back page of this paper.

Six Steel Pens Free.

Millions of people use steel pens and we have bought an immense lot which we want to introduce into new families. Will send six of different kinds, fine, coarse and medium, to all who send two cents for mailing expenses. Lane & Co., Augusta, Maine.

I WAS DEAF
AND FRANTIC WITH HEAD NOISES
WE EXCEL AND UNDERSSELL ALL!

Electric Carriage Lights, \$4.35
\$15 Telephones, complete, 5.95
Telegraph Outfits, 2.75
\$8 Medical Batteries, 3.65
Battery Table Lamps, 2.00
Electric Railways, 3.95
Electric Necktie Lights, .75
Miniature Electric Lamps, .30
Agents Wanted. Send for New Catalogue, just out.

OHIO ELECTRIC WORKS, Cleveland, Ohio.
Headquarters for Electric Novelties, Supplies, Books.

LADIES WANTED
TO SELL PETTICOATS AND RAINY DAY SKIRTS
The Latest and most stylish Garments on the market. Our Agents make from \$15 to \$80 per week. For particulars write (Dept. A)
PARIS SKIRT CO.,
562-6 Pearl St., Cleveland, O.

FREE EXAMINATION
Express Charges Paid
Before you buy a watch it will cost you a cent to see our great watch bargain. Cut this out and send to us with your name and address, and we will send you by express for examination a handsome WATCH AND CHAIN C.O.D. \$4.50. Express charges paid. Double testing case beautifully engraved, stem wind and stem set watch, fitted with richly jeweled movement, fully adjusted and guaranteed a correct time keeper, with long gold plated chain for ladies or vest chain for gents. If you consider it equal in appearance to any \$40.00 gold filled watch and chain warranted 20 Years, pay the express agent \$4.50 only and the watch and chain are yours. Mention If you wish Ladies or Gents size.
DIAMOND JEWELRY CO.,
Dept. 517, 225 Dearborn St., Chicago.

BICYCLES BELOW COST
5,000 HIGH GRADE guaranteed MACHINES with best equipment must be closed out. 1900 Models, best makes, \$11 to \$20. '99 & '98 Models, high grade \$5 to \$13.
500 Second Hand Wheels
all makes and models, good as new, \$5 to \$10. Great Factory Clearing Sale at half factory cost. We ship anywhere on trial without a cent in advance. **EARN A BICYCLE** distributing Catalogues for us. Many earned a wheel last year. Our 1900 proposition is even more liberal.
Write at once for our Bargain List and Special Offer. Address Dept. B.O.
MEAD CYCLE CO., Chicago

variably took in charge, and held for ransom. The condition of affairs was getting deplorable, and there was no remedy. Traps were set, and snares were spread, but this man laughed at them all, and bided his own time to act.

One day the Silver City coach was late. A single-tree had snapped and a new one had to be made of some raw material, which the driver always took with him. Twilight came and they were still in the hills, the old vehicle, shaped much like a land terrapin, squeaking and whining over the bumpy road. Four-fingered Fred was getting nervous, for a lady and her little daughter were traveling with him that day, and he had caught the glimpse of a diamond on her finger as he helped her into the coach back at Mineville. Black Barton had been quiet for over three weeks, and—

"Stop your coach, friend Fred!"

Something like an oath came from the driver but he pulled up his horses and mechanically raised his hands, although this time the order had not been given.

"Suppose you let your horses rest awhile," continued the man in black, standing quietly by the head of the off leader, with his pistol leveled at the breast of the man on the box. "I believe it would be a humane act for me to lighten the load they have to pull, so I must ask you to come down and help the ladies out."

"How in the devil did you know—?" burst out Fred, but the other man broke in.

"No profanity, please. Do as I bid you, then drive on to Silver City and spread the news."

Ten minutes later the empty coach was rattling towards its destination, and Black Barton with the mien and language of a gentleman, was telling his prisoners that they must accept his hospitality for a while; that they would be treated courteously and kindly, and that as soon as money for their release was forthcoming he would set them at liberty. The child clung, sobbing, to her mother and once, when she peeped up at the man before her, he caught a glimpse of her round gray eyes and his face paled, while the muscles about his mouth hardened.

The place whither Black Barton conducted his captives was a cave which he himself had hollowed out, and by natural and artificial means, hidden from the most searching eye. Here he gave them food and soft rugs upon which to sleep. The woman and child, worn with fright and fatigue, were soon asleep, the little one with its head close to its mother's breast. Then the man took down the lantern which was hanging from the roof, and noiselessly approaching the unconscious pair, held it so that its light fell full upon the girl. He knelt on the floor to look closer.

"Mary's face! My baby's face, to a line!" he gasped and shrank away in awe.

When he put the lantern back in place his hand was shaking. Then he lay down on the further side of the cave but not to sleep. Hour after hour he lay, watching that sleeping child four feet from him, and living in the past. In the middle of the night the little one moved and the man could see that her eyes were open. For fear of frightening her should she turn and find him awake, he closed his own. A moment later he heard a child's timid, supplicating voice. He looked in spite of his will, and beheld the little figure kneeling, with her face upturned and her tiny hands clasped in prayer.

"Dear Lord, take us away from this awful man, and give us to papa."

That was all. But Black Barton closed his eyes and shivered like a palsied man, while his lips unconsciously framed an "Amen."

In the morning when the mother woke, she found that a piece of paper had been slipped in her hand during the night. It bore these words:

"Follow the ravine until you come to the road, then wait for the Silver City stage."

And Black Barton was never seen again.

THE PLANET EARTH.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



WHAT was the beginning of it? Where did it come from? These are the questions which come to the scientist again and again, in these days of speculation.

We must go at once to the sun, a great ball of fire mist rotating in space. As it whirls, it throws off rings of fire mist, like the rings about our neighboring planet Saturn. These rings, freed from the holding force of their luminous parent, rotate about themselves and gradually assume a spherical shape, and revolve about the sun from which they came. Gradually as the fire mist cools a great molten globe is formed surrounded by an atmosphere which is heavy with carbonic acid and sulphuric acid, and covered with an ocean of water highly charged with chemicals.

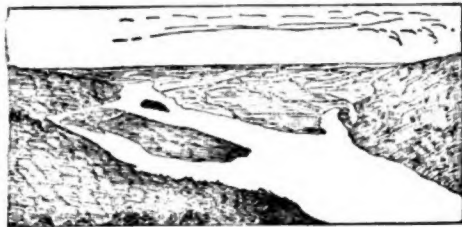
Two forces are now at work solidifying this molten ball, first the gradual cooling on the outside by loss of heat which forms a solid crust, second the pressure of the outer crust which causes the interior to become solid and rigid, more rigid probably than steel.

But by the cooling of this great sphere contraction takes place, and as the solid crust contracts it is too large to fit the rigid core and it wrinkles, much as the skin on an apple wrinkles when it is baked. These great wrinkles emerge from the universal ocean and form the continental masses of the earth. As the cooling goes on smaller bendings and wrinkles form the mountain systems and plateaus. Gradually the heavier acids are absorbed and the ocean and atmosphere become what we find today upon the earth.

But now to return to the solid interior of the earth. We know that it must be very hot, for it has been proved that the temperature rises a degree to every fifty feet downward. Then it is not difficult to conclude that at fifty miles below the surface a temperature would be reached which is unknown upon the outside of the shell. At such a temperature everything would be in a state of fusion were it not for the pressure from without, which is so great that the particles of white hot matter are pressed and packed close together forming the solid core of the earth. Another interesting fact concerning this great furnace beneath our feet is its composition. It is thought that in the solid core we should find gold, silver, platinum and all the heavier elements in such abundance as we find clay, quartz and feldspar on the surface. This is explained by their weight, for as the molten mass of the earth cooled the heavier substances would sink below

the lighter ones, which explains the fact that most of our rocks and sand contain a very large percentage of silica, alumina and carbon. Thus the gold and silver which we find in our mountains and rivers have been brought from a great depth in the earth by explosions and eruptions. If we could imagine ourselves living near the center of the earth brick houses would be as rare as golden palaces here while the ground would be paved with silver and platinum and a bit of common quartz would be a jewel fit for a king.

"The everlasting hills" have been talked of since the early days of poetry, yet nothing is more unstable than the mountains. No sooner does the land rise out of the sea and present its sloping surface and peaked summit to the light of the sun than the solar forces begin their work. The wind blows moisture in the form of clouds over it, rain falls upon it, wearing away its surface, percolating through crevices and dissolving many of its solid portions. In cold climates frost is an important factor in the erosion of the land. Water freezes in crevices and forces the particles farther apart. Glaciers wear off the mountain tops and sides and the ice on the shore plays a similar part with the cliff of the coast. Every drop of rain that falls gathers to itself a grain of soil which it carries away from the hill to the sea. Thus the rivers are not composed wholly of water but should be thought of as carrying also a load sometimes amounting to tons and tons of soil in a year. The swifter the rate of stream the larger the size



A DELTA.

of the material it moves, and the greater its capacity for tearing away. But as it reaches the lower land its load is deposited along the banks or in time of flood is spread out over the plain as in the Nile Valley. Sometimes a bank of the fine soil is deposited where the river current is arrested by the ocean waves and a delta plain like that of the Mississippi is formed. It is said that this great river extends its delta a mile in sixteen years.

But much of the detritus from the continents is deposited upon the ocean floor the finest material being carried farthest out forming clay beds, the sand being dropped upon the nearer shore and the gravel and larger material left high up on the land. Heat and pressure now begin their work again and in time beds of pudding stone, sandstone and slate are formed from the gravel, sand and clay. Because of the constantly added pressure due to the material deposited upon the ocean floor the continental masses are constantly rising and the coastline changes perceptibly in a thousand years. Thus as the solar forces, wind and rain, tear down the mountains a contra force is forcing up the continents because of the weight upon the sea floors.

But perhaps the most attractive force in world building is the volcanic force which acts swiftly and in so dramatic a manner that the whole world of to-day is attracted whenever it manifests itself. A volcano is not of necessity a mountain, although that is the popular notion. Any vent through which molten matter from the interior of the earth may flow is a volcano whether it builds up a mountain or not. The stream of lava may spread out in all directions forming a great lava plain like many of those in our western states or it may be forced suddenly from the interior in such large quantities that it builds up about the vent a mountain of eruptive material.

That there should be molten material in the interior seems contrary to our former statement that the earth's core is solid. It is not so however. Intermediate between the crust, which has been hardened by cooling, and the core, which has become solid through pressure, is a region which contains the elements in a state of fusion. By the bending of the crust to form continents and mountains, arches are formed leaving great spaces above the molten material. Water percolating through the rocks becomes heated and forms steam which after a time fills the spaces, tears apart the rocks above making for itself a way to the outer air and forming a vent through which the lava pours out upon the surface of the earth to be ground up and carried away to the sea by the surface waters.

Thus was the earth formed, thus is it being formed to-day! Before any living creature appeared these forces were at work as they are to-day. How many times our soil has been worked over from lava to slate and back again to clay we cannot tell. How many times the continents have risen and sunk again, dipping the crests of the Rockies or Himalayas in the ocean waves, no one can tell, but scientists tell us that not less than 20,000,000 and perhaps more than 100,000,000, years have passed since the earth began to cool.

XERXA.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



his son, a lad of about eight years, with two of the Colonel's friends who at the time were cruising with him.

HERE IS HEALTH

These Four New Preparations comprise a complete treatment for nearly all the ills of life. The Food-emulsion is needed by some, the Tonic by others, the Expectant by others, the Jelly by others still, and all four, or any three, or two, or any one, may be used singly or in combination, according to the exigencies of the case. Full instructions with each set of four free remedies, represented in this illustration.



EDITOR'S NOTE.—The Slocum System is medicine reduced to an exact science by America's foremost specialist, and our readers are urged to take advantage of Dr. Slocum's generous offer. When writing the Doctor please mention Comfort.

THESE FOUR REMEDIES

Represent a New system of medicinal treatment for the weak, and those suffering from wasting diseases, weak lungs, coughs, sore throat, catarrh, consumption, and other pulmonary troubles, or inflammatory conditions of nose, throat and lungs.

The treatment is free. You have only to write to obtain it.

By the system devised by DR. T. A. SLOCUM, the specialist in pulmonary and kindred diseases, the needs of the sick body can be condensed into his treatment by four distinct preparations.

Whatever your disease, one or more of these four remedies will be of benefit to you.

According to the exigencies of your case, fully explained in the treatise given free with the free medicine, you may take one, or any two, or three, or all four, in combination.

Female troubles and the ailments of delicate children are speedily relieved.

The four together form a panoply of strength against disease in whatever shape it may attack you.

THE FREE OFFER

To obtain these four FREE invaluable preparations, illustrated above, all you have to do is to write, mentioning COMFORT, in which you read this article, to DR. T. A. SLOCUM, Laboratories, 96 and 98 Pine Street, New York, giving your name and full address. The free medicine will then be sent you, in the hope that if it does you good you will recommend it to your friends.

They had left Dardaine at dark; a few moments previous, so the general supposition was, in the confusion of starting the woman and child had been left ashore. The boat was searched again and again to no avail.

Long after noon the following day the Colonel returned utterly broken down under the strain, for not a trace of the missing ones could be found.

For the next four weeks they cruised up and down the coast while the Colonel ransacked the villages within a radius of fifteen miles and advertised. But I am inclined to believe to this day had enormous rewards been suggested, his daughter's whereabouts might have been learned. The child however, was too young to be identified so that the chances of her ever being found in that country were few.

The Colonel's hope was sustained by this one fact. Soon after the child's birth, to commemorate the event on the yacht she had with due ceremony been christened "Xerxa" and on her right ankle had been tattooed a small X. To one disinterested this was perhaps the only apparent difference between her and the score of infants large and small who were brought to the yacht daily in answer to the advertisement and each day the poor father grew more disheartened until finally he gave up in despair and set sail for home.

A few years later the Colonel died and his last request was, that after his son had been graduated from college he should spend a given proportion of the income left him in searching for his sister.

Just between daylight and dark The Turkish Cafe was filled with loungers, some sipping the fragrant Mocha and others on divans smoking the choice tatakia in long, jasmine-stemmed pipes.

At the farther side of the room on a couch—half obscured in smoke from a nargileh at his side—reclined a young man, in garb only a Turk.

He shook himself as though to be free from thoughts perplexing and his mind wandered for the thousandth time to one he had seen that day as every day since his arrival at Constantinople—calling herself Eureka, while she sold her flowers in front of a mosque by day and at night frequently visited the cafes in hopes of disposing of the remainder of her wares, and then went—whither no one knew and no one cared except—except—yes, he would confess he had seen her bare, sandaled feet and delicately draped, though shabby robe, and had loved, and now he must find her and win her

and take her back home with him—But his sister—what of her? He could not dally all his life here, but just to appease his conscience he would leave a good sum with some poor fellow who would perhaps think it worth his while to search for the girl. Just now his whole heart was bent on—Hark! what was that? From the corridor came a few coarse words, then a mocking laugh and then a sharp cry, and all was still save for the hurrying footsteps.

Following the crowd, on the marble floor he saw the flower girl, Eureka, lying pale and motionless, and as he wedged his way through the crowd and lifted her in his arms, on her ankle, stretched from beneath her loose garb, he saw a tattooed letter. Xerxa was found but his love was dead.

JOHN ROGERS.



JOHN ROGERS, the sculptor, was born in Salem, Mass., in 1829. He early evinced a taste for art, but his parents discouraged it, and he found no opportunity to gratify his desire till he was about twenty-seven years old, when, having been thrown out of employment as a machinist—he having learned that trade—he determined to turn

his attention to his cherished plan. He accordingly went to Europe, studied awhile in Paris and Rome, but without the success he fondly expected. He returned to America thoroughly discouraged in his art. He sought a position in Chicago, securing that of City Surveyor. His mind recovered its tone, and he devoted his leisure hours to remodeling a group of figures for a ladies' fair, in behalf of some public charity. This group, "The Checker Players," when completed, attracted much attention, and encouraged him to persevere. Group after group came forth to public admiration, until he was enabled to open a studio in New York, in 1859. From that time his groups became deservedly popular, and now they are as familiar in American homes as household words.

Men, Women and Things.

CONDUCTED BY JENNIE MELVENE DAVIS.



We hear so much of wealthy Americans who have married into the peerage of England that the average American has the impression that the peerage is becoming Americanized. The titled classes number about twelve thousand and of these eighty are Americans.

There are a large number of "colonials" in the ranks of England's nobility and prominent among these is the beautiful Viscountess Wolseley wife of the commander in chief of the British army. The Viscountess was Miss Erskine of Ottawa. Her celebrated husband was sent to Canada to take charge of the Red River Expedition. This was a brilliant success. Viscountess Wolseley is a very celebrated and scholarly woman with a distinct executive ability. Some of her balls have been the admiration and wonder of Dublin and London. She has the tact to bring the right people together at the right time and so thoroughly has she exercised her ability that her invitations are always eagerly sought. Her only daughter shares with her mother an intense interest and devotion to the army and is prominent in philanthropic and educational effort in behalf of "Tommy Atkins." The daughter will inherit the title on the death of her father, for by special act it may descend in the female line. The home of the Wolseleys in Euston Square is a perfect museum of curios collected in many lands. The Queen has recently offered Lord and Lady Wolseley apartments at Hampton Court Palace. Lady Wolseley is to have the use of them for life. All in all it is a brilliant and successful life that has developed from a girlhood in the little Canadian capital.

There are five or six illustrators in the country who command salaries that are fortunes. One of the best known of political caricaturists is Eugene Zimmerman or "Zim." He is acknowledged as the best "funny picture" man in the United States and it would be difficult to find any one who ever looks at a paper from whom "Zim" has not drawn a smile. His present home is at Horseheads, New York, but Switzerland was his birthplace. His parents removed to New Jersey and "Zim's" first wage earning was as assistant to a pastry cook. He says he gave the place a reputation for the weird designs that he made in "frosting" and for his dough images. People hesitated to cut them not wishing to destroy such curious bric-a-brac pastry. Finally he sought other occupation on the earnest solicitation of the baker. He tried sign painting and finally established himself in the business of sign making at Elmira, New York. One of his relatives brought some of his sketches to New York and Keppler of "Judge" gave him a place. His genius and industry have done the rest. It is said that when he is at work it seems to rain lines. His ideas are developed before he takes up the pen and his work is rapid and sure. A political cartoonist possesses a great power in this hurried age. The picture often enforces a truth or points a moral that strikes its way home when pages of argument would fail. To make a thing absurd is to kill its power for evil, so that a man like "Zim" holds a power hardly gauged. It is a great gift and one not to be estimated lightly.

Alexis E. Frye has an opportunity in educational work such as few men enjoy. He is the superintendent of the schools of Cuba, having volunteered for the position through interest in the work. Mr. Frye is a Harvard man who has been connected with the Normal School of Chicago and who has also been superintendent of schools in San Bernardino, Cal. Mr. Frye is also the author of a text book on geography. He is a man thoroughly familiar with the best modern methods in teaching, a broad theorist but a practical educator. He has the vision to see and the faith to realize what to others seem impossible tasks. To Americanize the schools of Cuba seemed a Herculean work, but Mr. Frye's

enthusiasm would not recognize difficulties. He planned to bring two thousand Cuban teachers to the United States the past summer. They attended the session of the Harvard Summer School. The government gave them free transportation and \$100,000 has been raised by private subscription to defray the expenses of the journey. They landed in Boston July 4th in time to witness the celebration of that day. Trips to neighboring historic places were taken and after the close of the summer school, New York, Washington, Chicago and Niagara Falls were visited. The impressions received will, it is believed, be of great service in Americanizing the Cuban teachers.

Jeannette L. Gilder is one of the most successful literary writers in this country. She is a woman of strong personality with a keen practical common-sense and intense devotion to her work. She has just won favor as a playwright through her version of Quo Vadis. She was authorized by the writer Sienkiewicz and by his translator and publishers to make a dramatization of the popular book. At about the time it was ready for production another version was brought out. They were both presented to the public the same night and the interest and rivalry have drawn crowded houses to see both versions of the play. Miss Gilder began her literary work at the age of fourteen. Her brother Richard Watson Gilder, the well-known writer and editor of the Century had commenced his literary work as a reporter on a Newark, N. J. paper. He soon started a morning paper on his own account. This paper known as the Morning Register suffered the fate of all attempts at local morning papers in the metropolitan district—it failed. Miss Gilder who was then about twenty years of age furnished several columns daily for the paper, both she and her brother often working fifteen hours a day. The experience gained was most useful. Miss Gilder obtained employment on the metropolitan press and slowly worked her way from proof reading to paragraph writing, editing telegraphic news, writing leaders, musical and dramatic criticism and book reviewing. For a number of years she was the New York correspondent of two Boston papers and of the Philadelphia Press as well as a contributor to the London Daily Mail. In 1881 with her brother Joseph Gilder she started the Critic. This literary monthly has been a great success. Miss Gilder has tried her hand at playwriting before and is also the author of some few books. She has the genius of indefatigable industry and thoroughness. Her writing is marked by a keen critical discrimination. There is an absence of "gush" and of attempt at striking writing that early pointed to the fact that critical writing might be her forte. It is as a critic rather than a creator that she has won her greatest successes. She is well known in the inner literary circles of New York where she always finds a warm welcome.

Mrs. Fletcher Webster Jewell who is at present living in Boston, has the honor of being the first American to volunteer as a nurse in the Boer war. In 1895 Mrs. Jewell was living in Johannesburg at the time of the Jameson raid. The women were sent out of the city when it became evident that an outbreak between the Boers and the Uitlanders was imminent. She refused to leave and after the raid acted as nurse to the thirty-five wounded Englishmen and the four Boers. Soon after she returned with her husband to this country and assisted in securing signers to the petition to release the American mining expert, John Hays Hammond. This petition she presented to "Oom Paul" and in time she had the satisfaction of knowing that it was granted. Mrs. Jewell will soon publish a novel that will be drawn largely from her South African experiences.

Wu-Ting-Fang, the Chinese minister to this country, is recognized as one of the ablest diplomats that the Orient has ever sent to America. He is a curious and careful student of our institutions and his comments are as frank and ingenuous as they are amusing. He has a keen, dry sort of wit that is almost Yankee in its penetration. He admires some of our institutions but is faithful to his belief

in China. Occasionally his sense of humor is not keen enough to detect the American joke and he recently sent the information to his government that polygamy was on the increase in the United States, basing his statement on a gravely written article that depicted the members of a woman's club discussing the discouraging statistical fact that the feminine population exceeded the male and urging the adoption of polygamy as increasing their chance of marriage. Wu-Ting almost rivals his famous contemporary Li Hung Chang in the art of asking questions. He recently commented upon the injustice of our law that excluded Chinese laborers from the country at the same time that our press was expatiating upon the opportunities China offered Americans to make fortunes. "You may come to us and make money but our people may not come here to see you enjoy the wealth you have made in their native town." Wu Ting expressed the belief that the justice of the American people would lead them to repeal the law that they made during the periods when cheap labor was feared. Wu Ting is a man of fine education with a keen analytical mind. He is a polygamist in his own country, though he has but one wife in this country. She is fond of the ocean and has been a prominent figure on the board walk at Atlantic City. Her feet have been bound as is the custom of women of rank in her own land. For this reason she found the rolling chairs of great use and her chair followed by a Chinese attendant in native costume is always a center of interest. Wu Ting is a picturesque figure in his silk and satin brocades, with the curious thick soled silk shoes and the round brimless hat of China. He speaks excellent English and recently addressed the graduates of a Woman's Medical College. In his speech he expressed surprise that the medical profession had ever looked coldly upon the entrance of women to its ranks. He felt that the province of medicine was one peculiarly fitted to women. His little son attends the public school in Washington. His brightness is a source of great pride to his father. The little boy is a great favorite at the White House and his father says he is a born diplomat as he visits the White House oftener than his father. Wu Ting does not adopt Western dress but he does make the concession of cutting his finger nails. He has all the suavity of his race united to a natural courtesy that springs from the kindness that makes him one of the most popular members of the diplomatic corps.



Zitkala-Sa is the strange musical name of a young Sioux Indian girl who is attracting much interest and attention by her beauty, her genius and her work. She lived in Dakota until she was nine years old. In a series of articles which she has written she describes her "Impressions of an Indian Childhood" and at the same time reveals a tragedy. She saw some of the Indians come home from Eastern schools and the longing to speak the white man's language, to know the white man's knowledge possessed her. She tells in unconsciously pathetic words how her mother seemed to comprehend this by the mother instinct and went out to wall by the graves of her ancestors. The longing grew in the heart of Zitkala-Sa and in time she found herself at a Friend's school in Indiana. From this school she went to Earlham college in the same state. She won a first prize in oratory and also a first prize in an interstate oratorical contest between several colleges. She taught for some time in the Carlyle Indian school but left this work to pursue the study of the violin in Boston. Her playing shows much talent while her writing receives the most favorable comment from critics. There is a frankness in her descriptions of the real thought and feeling of an Indian girl that is seldom found in this taciturn race. Her Life of an Indian Girl shows the mental change from the age she describes in her Indian Childhood. It throws much light on the disputed wisdom of Indian education. Zitkala-Sa is the most interesting representation of her race that has come within the observation of the literary and musical world and her career will be watched with interest.

Eugenie Bonnefois is one of the most interesting women in the world. Her small, bent figure is decorated with the red cross on a white ground, with the green and red ribbon, and with the purple ribbon of the French Academy, all given as recognitions of the great work of this French woman. In all her long life she has never slept in a bed. Her parents owned a mechanical museum on wheels and travelled from one country fair to another, now in Paris, now in the provinces, but always moving. Eugenie was born in the wagen and there she will probably die. Her class of people are called "foraines" in France, and there are hundreds of them who have followed the business of furnishing amusement at fairs for generations. When she was eighteen Eugenie Bonnefois taught herself to read and write. There were scores of children as ignorant as herself and she commenced to teach them as soon as she had learned a little. When her parents died they left her the museum and she drove it all over France. During the Franco-German war of '70 she served as a nurse and she received the recognition of the red cross. Then she went back to her wandering life, but with an earnest desire to better the condition of children who like herself were cut off from all opportunities for an education by the wandering life they led. She finally won the attention of those in authority and succeeded in establishing a travelling school in her wagon. Here the foraine children are instructed and finally receive a diploma. It costs about \$1200 a year to support the school, and this sum Eugenie Bonnefois receives through private subscription. She gives them religious as well as secular instruction, and at Easter those who are prepared are confirmed in whatever church they may be near, for Mademoiselle Bonnefois and her work are known throughout France. Her face beams with kindly light. When asked if she ever became discouraged she answered, "Never; if one is to become discouraged in an undertaking it were better not to begin." The little wrinkled old woman has won recognition from all the best institutions in France. She is an officer of the French Academy; but best of all she has brought light and education to a class of people that were forgotten by all save her.

GOOD AGENTS WANTED!

\$25 to \$300 Earned Weekly.



MEN AND WOMEN AGENTS WANTED to sell the "Famous Maryland" Carpets, Rugs, Art Squares, Draperies and Bed Sets in every section of the Country. We pay freight, sew carpets free and furnish wadded lining without charge. We now include with this outfit, catalogue of "Famous Maryland" made-to-order clothing with large cloth samples attached, also Gent's Furnishings. We guarantee our clothing to fit, and prepay Expressage. Address, JULIUS HINES & SON., Baltimore, Md., Dept. 389.

Reversible LINENE Collars and Cuffs.

Stylish, convenient, economical. Made of fine cloth, finished in pure starch, and exactly resemble fashionable linen goods. No Laundry Work. When soiled discard. Ten Collars or five pairs of Cuffs, 25cts. By mail, 30cts. Send 6 cts. in stamps for sample collar or pair of cuffs. Name size and style. REVERSIBLE COLLAR CO., Dept. K, Boston, Mass.

STUDY AT HOME a GOOD POSITION.

We teach Book-keeping, Business Forms, Penmanship, Letter-writing, Commercial Law, Shorthand, Civil Service and English branches thoroughly by MAIL. Salaried positions secured by students. 15 Years' success. Highly endorsed. Send for FREE Catalogue. Trial lesson free. BRYANT & STRATTON'S COLLEGE, No. 418 College Bldg., Buffalo, N.Y. BY MAIL.

PARKER'S HAIR BALM
Cleanses and beautifies the hair. Promotes a luxuriant growth. Never Fails to Restore Gray Hair to its Youthful Color. Cures scalp diseases & hair falling. 50c. and \$1.00 at Druggists.

MUSIC TAUGHT BY MAIL

PIANO, ORGAN, GUITAR, BANJO, MANDOLIN, ETC.
Send for Illustrated Catalogue and Testimonial. Address Dept. Q. U. S. CORRESPONDENCE SCHOOL OF MUSIC, 154-158 Fifth Avenue, New York, N. Y.

LEARN TELEGRAPHY

For Railroad and Commercial Service. Typewriting Course Free. Paying positions guaranteed. Catalogue Free. FISK TELEGRAPH SCHOOL, Lebanon, Pa.

BIG COMMISSIONS TO LADY AGENTS

Lady agents for McCabe corsets and all underclothes get generous commissions and make big money because the goods sell on sight in every style for different figures—prices within reach of all. Write for particulars. ST. LOUIS CORSET COMPANY, ST. LOUIS, MO.

THE STORY OF EXPANSION.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



THOMAS JEFFERSON.

rightly judge or intelligently consider these issues without knowing what our history in the question really is, and for that purpose COMFORT has prepared a brief review which will be presented without comment, so that readers of every party may read it.

Expansion is by no means a new question in America. In fact, in one form or another it has been considered by the voters of every generation and generally favorably. But in the present struggle it takes a new form because the expansion is no longer to take in simply adjacent territory, but reaches across the seas into other lands. It also opens up the vital question of how these newly-acquired islands are to be governed; whether as territories, which are sometimes to be states, with equal representation with the present states; or, as colonies having a local self government, carried on under certain officers, such as Governors, representing and appointed by the central government at Washington.

As we have on other questions warned our readers, great care should be exercised in judging these important questions, and it must be remembered many of the sensational phrases and reports of parties and papers are coined and used as catchwords to capture votes among the unthinking. Much of the eloquence and many of the editorials which will come in this campaign will be only to catch votes. No matter what is said by politicians, the people of this country mean well and intend to do right, whether of one party or another; and we may be certain that in any event no harm shall in the end come to this country, which we all love, although we are fond of pretending that only about half of us do while the other half is supposed to be actively devising means to destroy it.

The story of expansion is interesting and will prove instructive to those who have never given it any consideration. It will be remembered that at the time of the discovery and settlement of America, Spain was the first power of the world, and her navies ruled the seas. Besides being the greatest naval power, she had the greatest wealth and resources of any of the civilized nations, and her commerce spread out through the then known civilized world into the distant lands occupied by barbarians.

It was through this leadership in commerce that her great fleets were sent into far-off seas in the way of trade, and upon the opening of the American continent, Spanish trading posts, forts and cities appeared on every hand. Gradually that nation was followed by others in the race of conquest, and the division of America, under what are now called zones of influence in trade, were well defined in the North American continent. The whole of South America was given over to the Spanish dominion, which stretched across the isthmus up through the present country called Mexico, and reaching up from the mouth of the Mississippi for its full length, was traced nearly to Hudson's Bay on the north. Besides the mouth of the Mississippi, she controlled the whole shore of the Gulf, comprising what is now the lower part of Alabama, and the whole of the state of Florida. Although the Spanish had touched the Pacific Ocean, their progress had not been as rapid on that side; and from a point about where San Francisco now is a line stretched in a circular way up toward the northern point of their dominions on the eastern side. Everything above this, comprising the Oregon territory as it was called, a large part of Canada and Alaska was then unexplored land.

By the peace of 1763, France had relinquished her claim to Canada, and the English held the whole of North America east of the Mississippi River with the exception of Florida as we have above written.

A few years after, the Revolutionary War broke out which was finally settled by the evacuation of the thirteen colonies by the British and the signing of the treaty of peace

in Paris Sept. 3, 1783, which was negotiated on our part by Benjamin Franklin, John Jay and John Quincy Adams. The independent United States under this treaty extended from the Atlantic Coast to the Mississippi River; Florida, was given back by Great Britain to Spain, and Spain continued to hold the country west of the Mississippi, which naturally was but poorly defined, and went under the general name of the Louisiana Territory.

The early congresses and all the traditions of the united colonies which had become this independent country were against any idea of expanding the domains of the United States any further in any direction; but it must always be remembered in considering this great question that the circumstances were then so different and the country was so small and poor in population that the conditions under which the Constitution and earlier laws were enacted can hardly be duplicated at the present time.

The remarkable progress in mechanical engineering, means of transportation, ways of communication, and modern conditions have so changed the whole aspect of affairs that we can scarcely place ourselves in mental touch with the condition of the people of that day and generation.

Taking a letter as an ordinary example, and the transportation of the mail represents progress in all other lines of communication, at the time of the treaty of peace in 1783 it took a letter as long to go from Boston to Philadelphia, which was the seat of government, as it would now require across the Atlantic Ocean. A letter sent from



SECRETARY W. H. SEWARD.

science and philosophy. He was, like all Virginians, a great enthusiast in out-of-door sports, and was very punctual in all his habits, with an honest dislike for ceremony or parade. He was a foremost leader in social and legislative reforms, devised our decimal currency, wrote the Declaration of Independence, and founded many of the doctrines which today are the foundations of the republic, and which are acknowledged by both parties as the corner stones of the edifice.

No person, with the possible exception of Washington, in all the political history of America was in his day so great a subject of vituperation and abuse as Jefferson. He was thoroughly misunderstood by a large portion of the citizens, and was represented as a rank atheist and a political adventurer.

Mr. Blaine, in his marvelous work, says: "It seems scarcely credible that the acquisition of Louisiana by Jefferson was denounced with a bitterness surpassing the partisan rancor with which later generations have been familiar. No abuse was too malignant, no epithet too coarse, no imprecation too savage to be implied by the assailants of the great philosophic statesman who laid so broad and deep the foundations of his country's growth and culture."

Fortunately for the United States, the patriotic and far seeing Jefferson was energetic in acquiring the title to this valuable domain, and equally energetic about sustaining our rights after its purchase in 1803 for the small sum of \$15,000,000, a cost so small that the total sum expended for the entire territory does not equal the revenue which has been obtained from its soil in a single month. The country thus acquired forms today the states of Louisiana, Arkansas, Missouri, Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, Minnesota west of the Mississippi, Colorado north of the Arkansas, Indian Territory, Dakota, Wyoming and Montana.

Under this treaty Texas was included in the transfer, but the Oregon country was not.

The next expansion of the United States occurred in 1819 when after constant trouble in regard to the boundaries of Louisiana and the great dissatisfaction caused in Spain by Bonaparte ceding Louisiana to the United States, trouble broke out which caused Gen.

Mexico for a monetary equivalent, and is known as the Gadsden Purchase. This was to definitely locate the northern boundary of Mexico and to terminate the disputed possession of a strip of neutral ground lying between Mexico and the cession of 1848.



PRESIDENT MCKINLEY.

that year the vast territory, valuable for furs, fisheries, timber and metals, was bought for the sum of \$7,000,000 against the protests of all those who were opposed to Gen. Grant. Without speaking further of the value of Alaska, it is only right to call attention to the fact that the present amount of gold that is brought out from this territory is fully three times as large annually as the amount paid for the whole territory, and this does not in any way consider any of the other assets.

One or two attempts were made at later dates to purchase one of the islands in the West Indies for a naval station, but the sentiment of the country seemed to be against the same, and it was abandoned. It was not until Hawaii, after many ups and downs, finally was annexed to the United States that we again expanded. But the late Spanish-American war, which is so recent as to need no present allusions, unexpectedly brought to us Porto Rico, Guam, Wake and the Philippines through the treaty of peace at Paris in 1899, and today the question of colonies is the one foremost in the minds of many of the people. It being a matter of politics, we will not enter into it at the present time, but let every person draw his own conclusions from the evidence that he may have on either side. But it is well to note in closing that the history of expansion has been practically for 100 years, and there has never been a single act or effort to expand the United States but that it has been coarsely and rudely assailed as imperialism or some similar name, and looked upon as the downfall of the American republic.

By looking at the map accompanying this article the reader will see that COMFORT has explained the acquisition of all the territory depicted therein, excepting the Oregon country. The status of the 299,000 square miles of territory is somewhat different from the others and our claims to this territory rested on somewhat different and disputed grounds which were not fully agreed to until our treaty with Great Britain in 1846. Our claim to the Oregon territory was as follows:

Captain Gray, in 1792, discovered the mouth of the Columbia River and sailed up that river and laid claim to the unknown country of Oregon in the United States of America, and that has always been the foundation of our claim to the Oregon country—its discovery by Captain Gray in 1792. Oregon is no part of our Louisiana purchase, and the maps of the United States, now issued by the Land Office, show upon their face that Oregon was no part of the territory we purchased from France in 1803. Our title to Oregon depends, first, upon the discovery of the mouth of the Columbia

River by Captain Gray in 1792. It is a law of nations that any country that discovers and occupies the mouth of a river thereby becomes entitled to all the unoccupied territory watered by that river.

The next ground of our title to Oregon was the treaty of 1819 with Spain, whereby Spain, at the time she ceded Florida to the United States, relinquished to the United States all of that territory north of what was then called Upper California.

From a poor, struggling, weak republic one hundred years ago, the United States has expanded into one of the largest countries in the world, and today has more wealth per capita than any nation in the world. Notwithstanding the doleful prophecies which have always been made, the course of expansion in the United States has been attended with equal prosperity; and not only this, but notwithstanding the prophecies that the republic must fall, America today stands among the great powers, if not the leading nation of the entire civilized world. What will be the verdict of the American people relative to the holding of distant lands which we have taken remains to be seen in the result of the general election in November.

AGENTS WANTED

in every city, town or village. No special experience is required. The *Cosmopolitan*, in starting out for the fall subscription season of 1900, is prepared to pay handsomely for work. Arrangements are being made to give every possible aid to agents, and any person with a little perseverance can largely increase his income by this work, even if spare moments only are utilized. Write to-day for Special Fall Offer. Address

THE COSMOPOLITAN MAGAZINE,

Agents' Department, Irvington-on-Hudson, N. Y.



MAP SHOWING EXPANSION OF UNITED STATES TERRITORY.

Portland, Maine, at that time, to any of the settlements in Georgia, which was then the extreme south, would have taken as long to reach its destination as it would now take to circle the entire globe. It was fully as many days between Boston and New York by ordinary travel, as it is now hours by railroad. This does not take into consideration the electric telegraph and cables, which have brought the distant nations within hourly communication and closer connection than then existed between the most neighboring cities in this country.

The next twenty years saw great revolutions in the world, and especially among the European governments where war and conquest and revolution followed each other with startling rapidity. This brought about a period of depression in Spain, and taking advantage of the same her harassed colonies in various parts of South America set themselves up, one after another, as independent republics. While this period of depression was coming on, Napoleon was in the height of his power. Almost involved in war with him, Spain began to look about for a customer for her colony in North America. By a treaty with Napoleon in 1801, this vast tract was given to France, as Bonaparte then had the intention of placing a great colony there to prevent the growth of the United States to the westward, and control the Mississippi river, whose magnificent possibilities were evident to him. But two years later, seeing that he was about to have a war with Great Britain, and knowing that the supremacy of the British fleet could easily isolate any force which he might have in this possession and keep away all relief, he was brought to open negotiations with President Jefferson with a view to selling this tract of land to America.

Nothing can be more ironical than the fact that the present democratic party is pledged against expansion, and deprecates anything of the kind, while at the same time claiming Thomas Jefferson as the father of that party. Jefferson was one of the first great American statesmen, and a most remarkable man. He was an accomplished scholar, reading several languages with ease, and deeply versed in

Jackson, afterwards the president of this country, to march across the line and capture Pensacola. This invasion caused so much trouble that a treaty was negotiated in 1819 by which the whole of Florida was ceded to Spain, Texas was receded to Spain also, while other portions of the treaty definitely stated the exact boundaries of the northern portion of the Spanish colonies.

The country did not again expand until in 1845. After the war of revolution in Texas against Mexico, and having gained her independence, the whole state was annexed by Act of Congress to the United States which, with other differences, brought on hostilities and finally war was declared with Mexico which led to our invasion of that country during the administration of President Polk, with many American victories and the subjugation of that country. By the Mexican war was added to the United States an enormous territory equal in area to Germany, France and Spain added together, that which includes the whole of California and the adjacent states. In the meantime, all the country over which the American dominion had been extended was gradually, and at times rapidly, growing in population and wealth.

Treaties between the United States and Great Britain, definitely fixing the northeastern and northern boundaries of the United States, gave to America in 1846 what was then known as the Oregon country, and which now comprises the states of Oregon and Washington. In 1853, a strip of territory was ceded by



PRESIDENT POLK.



PRESIDENT U. S. GRANT.



WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



THE fashion of autograph collecting has been revived, but in a manner greatly modified. The collectors of the present day do not preserve the handwritings of their friends in books, but show an utter disregard for conventionalities and "mount" the signatures in ways which would have been quite undreamed of by their predecessors, and would perhaps have been thought a little shocking. The college girl is one of the most enthusiastic of the several classes of collectors, and her methods of preserving the autographs are perhaps the most unique. For the class autographs she prepares one or more pairs of window curtains of white muslin, and over the surface of each curtain, at all sorts of irregular distances and angles, she has her classmates write their names. After the graduating exercises have become a thing of the past, no more delightful occupation for the summer days at home could be devised than that of outlining these names with the college colors in silks, and no more constant and attractive reminder of college days could be secured than these same curtains hung at the windows of her room.

But the class curtains are not all. The society pillow is held in perhaps even greater esteem. The society colors are used for the foundation of the pillow cover, and the names of those who make up the local chapter are written here and there upon its surface. The center space alone is reserved, and here the society emblem is embroidered. The pillow thus becomes a "thing of beauty" as well as a "joy forever"; an heirloom to be handed down to future generations, especially should some of the names upon it become widely known in the years to come. The signatures are of course outlined with heavy Asiatic silks in some of the society colors.

Often there is a still more intimate circle of close friends, restricted to the favored number who are invited to our college girl's private "spreads." And the autographs of this inner circle are also appropriately preserved. One more formal "spread" than usual is served, this time upon a table over which a luncheon cloth is laid. When the feast has been discussed and cleared, the guests write their names upon the cloth, just as they sit about the table, and another cherished memento of college life has been secured. These names are afterward outlined in white linen, or colored Asiatic silks as preferred.

One enterprising college girl who had a "friend at court," secured the autographs of

the design. The patterns are of delicate flower sprays, sometimes combined with scrolls and ribbon garlands. Small flowers are chosen for the designs, such as daisies, forget-me-nots, arbutus and occasionally diminutive roses. The petals of the flowers and the leaves are worked with the ribbon, one width forming a petal or a narrow leaf. The roses are made full by gathering one edge of the ribbon and sewing it to the foundation in a narrowing circle, finishing at the center.

The ribbon used is of French manufacture, narrower than the baby ribbon, and finished without a corded edge. It comes in plain and in shaded tints. The pink, blue and green shaded, and the plain white, are the selection usually made. The ribbon is carried in a crewel needle having a large oval eye through which it may be easily threaded. The point of the needle should be sharp, and only a short length of ribbon is threaded in at one time. As it is drawn through the fabric this is quite essential, as a long piece would become matted before it could be used.

The fabric upon which the design has been stamped should be stretched smoothly over hoops before the work is begun.

To work, bring the ribbon through from the underside at the tip of the petal or leaf, and push down at the center or stem. A stiletto will be found useful to punch a small hole through the fabric before the needle is drawn through, as by this means the ribbon is less matted. If however your needle is large this will not always be necessary. Hold the ribbon in place with your thumb while the length is being drawn through, to prevent its becoming twisted. Whenever the ribbon is cut, or at the beginning of work, it will be necessary to catch the end of the ribbon to the underside of the fabric with a few stitches taken with sewing silk of the same shade.

The centers of the flowers are finished with a French knot or a cluster of knots made with Caspian floss. The stems are worked as in embroidery with Asiatic filo in satin stitch. Sometimes the leaves are also worked with the filo, leaving only the flowers to be done in the ribbon. If scrolls form a part of the design they should be worked with long and short stitch in Asiatic filo of a delicate shade to harmonize with the colors of the flowers, or they may be worked solid in Kensington stitch. In making double flowers such as daisies, work the outer row of petals first, and when the inner row is reached leave the ribbon somewhat loose to form a loop or puff, giving the flower a raised effect. This style of work is employed upon the richest pillow covers, glove and handkerchief cases, picture frames, pin cushion covers, and screens, and indeed wherever richly decorative effects are appropriate.

The church fair, the donation party, the singing school and "Miss Jarley" have played their part with such persistency that even to the most ardent charity worker the very idea of any of them is odious. During the past winter some clever women originated an "Antique Sale," and it is a benefit to both parties—those who give and those who buy.

In every household there are always articles of which the owner is tired or which the receding tide of a former fashion has left stranded. Things too good to give away indiscriminately, yet not good enough to give at first hand, have at last a mission. A call is put in the local papers, and all persons interested in the particular charity are invited to contribute old furniture, pictures, books, bric-a-brac, jewelry, china, silver, toys, and even clothes.

All articles should be sent two or three days in advance to the hall where the sale is to be held. There they are sorted, ticketed plainly with the price and arranged in an attractive manner.

years ago and I never could find a place where it fitted." Everything that was sent was sold, the few articles remaining at the end of the second day were auctioned. Somebody sent a quantity of curious deeds, with the great, round seal of the State of New York attached. These were eagerly bought by people making collections, as were Cuban relics, etc., that soldier boys sent in. A collection of stamps made by a boy who had since outgrown it was the object of such eager competition that it was finally sold at auction and brought a round sum.

The chief merit of one of these sales is that the only labor is the collecting and selling, and the days of toil spent in making aprons and embroideries which no one wants can be cheerfully omitted.

ANCIENT CALENDAR.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



HE fourteenth of September is called Holy Cross Day and is a festival in the Roman Catholic church. That it was the custom to go nutting on this day is indicated by some lines from an old play:

"This day, they say, is called Holy-Rood Day And all the youth are now a nutting gone."

Michaelmas falls on the twenty-ninth of September and at this season it is customary to hold elections in England. The origin of this custom is obscure as is also that of having roast goose for dinner on this day. There is an old saying that "if you eat goose on Michaelmas Day you will never want for money the year round." It is in reference to this custom that Churchill says:

"September, when by custom, right divine, Geese are ordained to bleed at Michael's shrine."

The season has also its weather proverb: "So many days old the moon is on Michaelmas Day so many floods after."

A divination much practiced by English maidens at this time is to gather crab apples, cut in them the initials of their lovers and store them in an attic. That which is found in the best state of preservation on St. Michael's Day represents the strongest attachment.

A STITCH IN TIME SAVES NINE.

Our Spring overhauling of stock shows a few hundred cards of **Barnum Cotton** on hand, 48 yds. on each card, several shades: tan, black, white, drab, etc. One card, 3c.; four cards, 10c., all mailing charges paid by us. COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

THE NATURAL BODY BRACE



CURES
Female Troubles,
Stomach, Stomach,
Inflammations,
Internal Pains,
Tired Feeling,
Backache,
Weak Lungs,
Nervousness.

TRIAL FREE.
It will make you comfortable, buoyant, happy—give you ability to work and enjoy life. It is simple, wholly external, adjustable to any figure. Worn with or without corset.

We have over 15,000 letters like this:
Chandler, Okla., July 27, 1899.
Your Brace did all you said about it and more for me. It has saved me a big doctor's bill and brought me good health, which I had not had before in 25 years. My troubles were dropsy, headache, lung disease, stomach and other ills to which women are subject.
MRS. L. B. DICKINSON.

Write today for particulars and illustrated book mailed free in plain sealed envelope. Address:
The Natural Body Brace Co., Box 27, Salina, Kansas.
Every woman should have this Brace.

BEATS 'EM ALL.

Thousands of women will be made happy by this unusual offer. A genuine, honest \$6.00
Silk Plush Cape for \$2.98
Reaches five inches below waist. Lined with mercurized silk. Large storm collar, trimmed with black curly shawl fur, embroidered with jet and braid. State neck and bust measure when ordering. Will send C.O.D. Try it on and if you find it exactly as represented pay agent \$2.98 and express charges. (If you prefer we will send cape by mail) prepaid on receipt of \$3.50. Remember these capes are sold as an advertisement to let you know we are the cheapest cloak house in the world.

FREE—Our beautiful illustrated fall and winter Catalogue D of latest capes, jackets, suits, furs, etc. A postal brings it. Write now.

Above cape is of fashionable medium length. Write for particulars and samples in long plush cape bargains.

M. PHILIPSBORN 186 State St., CHICAGO, ILL.

Please mention COMFORT when you write.

IT PAYS TO Buy Direct

from factory at wholesale prices you pay one small profit about 10%. Why pay agents and dealers high prices? All attachments free. 30 days free trial. Warranted 30 years. 120,000 sold.
\$85.00 Arlington Gem for \$12.95
Drop Head Arlington Gem for \$12.50
\$50.00 Arlington for \$15.00
\$65.00 Kenwood for \$21.50
Other Machines at \$9.50, \$10.50 & \$12
Large illustrated catalogue and testimonials free. CASH BUYERS' UNION.
158-164 W. Van Buren St., B-5, Chicago, Ill.

GEARHART'S IMPROVED KNITTER

with Ribbing Attachment
Knits everything, from homespun or factory yarns, equal to hand-knitting. Cheap, Practical, Simple. Illustrated instruction book sent about it. Only machine made with **RIBBING ATTACHMENT**. Ahead of all competitors. Satisfaction guaranteed. Laid in ribbed samples free. Address:
J. E. GEARHART, Clearfield, Pa.

FREE
WE POSITIVELY GIVE BOTH TEA SET AND WATCH. SEE 20 STIMPEL DOLLIES—BEAUTIFUL DESIGNS, to friends and neighbors at 10c. each and give an exquisitely perfumed love charm FREE with each, and give away FREE 30 coupon cards, and when money has been about us we will give you a BEAUTIFUL Watch, guaranteed a good time keeper, and a ROYAL TEA SET, (every piece full size for family use) beautifully decorated, and of very latest shape. WE TRUST YOU. Send only name and address and we will send dollies, etc., postpaid. REMEMBER, we positively give BOTH the WATCH and TEA SET.
ROYAL SILK CO., 25 S. NEWARK, NEW JERSEY.
This firm really gives Watch and Tea Set Free.

A Gold Lined Silver Dish FREE!

To introduce our famous little **Giant Oxen Pills**, giving all the chance to derive the wonderful benefits from these new life giving wonders. We send two boxes absolutely free all charges paid. You sell the Pills for 25c. per box and send us the money within 20 days. In all, and we give you as a premium this wonderful **Gold Lined Silver Dish** Free. These dishes are warranted quadruple plated silver, they are fitted top and bottom, beautiful and useful ornaments, they are suitable for dining table use or as side dish for bon bons they are elegant and will last 12 years. Send your name and address at once so your friends can derive the great benefits coming from the use of **Oxen Pills** and you get the profits as the dish can be sold in a minute for 75c. These Pills are noted for their quick action on Liver, Stomach, Heart, Bowels and special organs of either sex. All ills vanish as by magic if you use these pills. Send quick so as to be sure of a dish before they all go, and get full particulars of our great money making agency proposition where you get hundreds of dollars from a one dollar investment. Address:
THE GIANT OXIE PILL DEPT., Augusta, Maine.

FEEL YOUR PULSE



Place your finger on your pulse and see if your heart beats regularly and steadily. If there is a single skipping or irregularity of the beats, your heart is weak or diseased, and there is no telling how soon it will stop beating altogether. Heart troubles, dangerous as they are, can be instantly recognized by all. No doctor can tell better than you if your heart is out of order. But remember that irregular or skipping beats is only one symptom, and in many cases is not found. Any of the following are just as positive and sure:

Symptoms of Heart Trouble.

Fluttering, Palpitation, Shortness of Breath, Tenderness, Numbness or Pain in the Left Side, Arm or Under the Shoulder Blade; Fainting Spells, Dizziness, Hungry or Weak Spells; Spots Before the Eyes; Sudden Starting in Sleep, Dreaming, Nightmare, Choking Sensation in Throat; Oppressed Feeling in Chest; Cold Hands and Feet; Painful to Lie on Left Side; Dropsy; Swelling of the Feet or Ankles (one of the surest signs); Neuralgia Around the Heart. Persons having even one of these symptoms should not delay treatment a single day.

Medicine Free to All. If you have been treating yourself for stomach, lung, kidney or nervous disease, and have failed to find a cure, the chances are 9 in 10 that your trouble is in your heart. Hundreds of such cases are found every year. I want you to send me your name and address at once, so I can send to you for trial a box of my celebrated Heart Tablets absolutely free of charge, by mail, prepaid. Don't fail to write me if you have a single one of the above symptoms. I can cure you beyond any question, and will send the free tablets to prove it to you personally. Delays are dangerous. Inclose stamp for postage.

Address **DR. F. G. KINSMAN, Box 962 Augusta, Maine.**

PNEUMATIC RAPID-FIRE RIFLE.



Here's One on the Pneumatic Plan for Just One Dollar, Made Entirely of Wood and Metal.

Stained and polished to represent mahogany, has all improvements, exposed metal parts, heavily plated. Same size as regular Carbine. Is designed for shot, which can be bought for a trifling expense anywhere. Works on the pneumatic spring scientific plan. Loads at breech. Shoots with accuracy. Has the force and precision of any magazine gun. Can be used with perfect safety by men, women and children. No horrible accidents by careless handling. Kills birds and small game. Just right for hunting where silence is wanted. Brass tubes, air chamber, and heavy metal springs. Endorsed by officers of the Army and Navy as the best mechanical rifle ever produced. Used on practice ships in place of regular magazine rifles. Boys are delighted with it and prefer it to a larger gun. Can be kept in your room to protect the household if you dislike to have firearms around. Absolutely no danger. Carefully packed for \$1.00.

SPECIAL OFFER. Send us a club of five yearly subscribers to this paper at 25 cents each, and we will send you one of these rifles free as a premium, all charges paid. Address **NATIONAL FARMER, Augusta, Maine.**



AN INTERESTING STUDY.

the college faculty in a similar manner. There was to be a faculty dinner, and the hostess was her friend. She asked permission to furnish the tablecloth to be used on this occasion, and the favor was granted. It is needless to say that a handsome cloth was sent, and the hostess secured for her the autographs of the entire faculty after the courses of the dinner had been removed.

The college girl is not alone in her pursuit of autographs. Society women who entertain distinguished guests are preserving their autographs upon the table linen, either the cloth or sometimes upon the napkins. In either case the souvenirs thus secured are unique and full of interest to succeeding guests as well as to their possessor.

The dainty French ribbon work is being revived by embroiderers and seems likely to take prominent rank in decorative needlework. The work is exquisite and artistic when properly carried out. It should be employed however only upon rich fabrics of delicate shades. This style of work was admired by Marie Antoinette and flourished during her reign. It is sometimes called rococo embroidery. The work is done with narrow ribbons used in connection with embroidery silks, although the silks play a minor part in

The various articles should be displayed in classes. The furniture should be arranged attractively and can be presided over by "Little Nell and her Grandfather." The clothes look best on lines, and at a particular sale there were fivesuits of dress clothes, which, although not in the latest style, were in good condition and brought a fair proportion of their cost price, three of them being bought by students.

The jewelry was displayed in a booth, the table of which was covered with black velvet; there were sets of gold and silver filigree, cameos and mosaics, and somebody not knowing or not caring for the latest fad had sent quite a variety of pink coral. It was snapped up in a trice. The children's toys, many marked as low as a penny, were in great demand, and when it was noised abroad that such treasures as a "horse with real hair on him," could be had for almost nothing, there was a bargain trade till the table was cleared.

It was at the bric-a-brac table that the most beautiful objects were grouped, and many were the jokes played. "Just see what a pretty inkstand I have bought," said one sister to another. The other laughingly replied, "You paid more than that for it two years ago I fancy." "What do you mean?" was the query. "Why you gave it to me for Christmas two

A GENEROUS OFFER

George B. Wright Discovers a Cure for Lost Manhood and Sends It Free to Every Sufferer Who Will Write for it.

Gratitude is one of the noblest impulses of the human heart and in few instances has this fine quality been so conspicuously exemplified as in the case of George B. Wright of Marshall.

Mr. Wright is a merchant and well known citizen of Marshall, Mich., who was permanently cured of lost manhood and nervous debility after declining health for years. He now devotes his life to helping other men who suffer as he once suffered. Mr. Wright offers to send the medical prescription that effected a cure in his case to every reader of COMFORT who is suffering to-day as he suffered. All who will drop him a letter asking for a copy of the prescription will receive it by return mail free of charge.

The following editorial by A. N. Tally, M. D., regarding Mr. Wright's prescription for lost manhood appeared in the December issue of the United States Health Reports, published at Washington, D. C.

We, as the highest American authority on all matters of health, sanitation and hygiene, are constantly receiving letters of inquiry about a reliable cure for lost strength in men.

Therefore we have ordered an investigation to be made into the subject and our medical staff found there were many so-called cures on the market, but that many were worthless and some actually harmful. Therefore when we came upon the prescription furnished free by George B. Wright, a merchant of Marshall, Mich., we instituted a most thorough laboratory examination and found that its wonderful efficacy depended upon its being exactly compounded according to proper chemical requirements, in order to establish the proper chemical actions and reactions in the human system, and that it should especially, and above all, contain each and every ingredient named in the prescription, otherwise it would be quite inactive and worthless.

Properly mixed and containing everything called for in the prescription, its effect upon the nerve centers is truly wonderful and its nerve tonic properties easily surpassed all ordinary methods of medication.

Among the benefactors of the race may be mentioned the said George B. Wright, inasmuch that he gives this grand discovery free to all who write for it.

Taken according to directions it builds up the weak and restores to full size and vigor the nerve muscles. It brings hope and cheer and lifts up the discouraged man so that he once more enjoys the beauties of nature and the pleasures of life. Failure in business and love surely falls upon him who is weakened physically and mentally, and this sad condition is at once relieved and a new man made of him who uses this prescription.

Therefore, upon the highly favorable report of our medical staff we extend to George B. Wright's prescription for lost manhood the full editorial and official endorsement of the United States health reports. As certain as wound leaves a scar, and as sure as effect follows cause, do men live to repent their follies and indiscretions in weakness and suffering. The tortured sufferer may bear no telltale marks of ruin upon his face to betray his lost manhood. He goes to his grave a human wreck, and never tells of his sufferings for fear of shame. Such mental anguish at times drives him to the verge of desperation, and he is easy prey for those vultures in human form—quack doctors—who hold out alluring hopes of cure only to disappoint, and after robbing him of his money, plunge him into absolute despair.

No one can appreciate the horrors of lost manhood except he who has suffered them. No one can help such sufferers except he who knows a cure and has himself been restored to full manhood. A notable cure of lost manhood in an extreme case was effected in the person of George B. Wright, a music dealer and well known citizen of Marshall, Mich. Mr. Wright for years suffered the agony of lost vital power. He saw his physical power go from him as the result of insidious disease, until he was reduced to a condition of senility, and the best doctors in the country gave him up to die.

Like many others, he tried the various remedies offered by specialists for the treatment of weaknesses peculiar to men, and it was this experience that drove him to a little study and research for his own benefit.

He asserts that his ten years' suffering, both mentally and physically, was turned to unbounded joy in a single night through a rare combination of medicines that literally made him young again. It is the prescription of this discovery that his enthusiasm leads him to offer free to any man, young or old, who feels that his animation or the fire of ambition has left him and needs something that will brace him up and enable him to be prepared for any undertaking which may present itself.

There is no question but what in his individual case the results were just as described, and it seems quite probable that any man who believes himself to be weak may profit by sending for this free prescription. Many people wonder how he can afford to send this prescription free, but it costs him little to do so and he feels a philanthropic interest in giving weak men an opportunity to cure themselves.

A request to G. B. Wright, music dealer, Box No. 770 Marshall, Mich., for his free prescription, will be promptly and privately complied with by return mail.

OUR SPONGE INDUSTRY.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



FLORIDA is the only part of the United States that produces sponges having commercial value. They are found on both its eastern and western coasts, but are far more abundant on the latter, owing to the equable temperature and moderate depth of the water, and the comparative absence of fierce hurricanes.

The sponge grounds of the Gulf of Mexico extend from the Florida reefs to St. Marks, and for a distance of fifteen to twenty miles from shore. The best sponges in color, texture and size are indigenous to deep water, and as these command the highest prices in all markets, the sponging vessels are often at work for days together out of sight of land.

Sponges are known by various names, such as the sheep's wool, the grass, the yellow, the velvet, and others; but only the first three have any commercial value, and of these the sheep's wool is by far the best, being of a soft, yielding texture and very durable. It is well adapted for toilet, surgical, and general hospital purposes.

Sponge buyers pay from \$1.50 to \$2.50 a bunch for this variety at the kraals, while they only give from 40 to 75 cents a bunch for the grass, and from 15 to 20 cents for the yellow sponge.

It is only of late that the grass sponge has had any commercial value, but many vessels pull it now when the sheep's wool is scarce, as London has recently become a good market for it.

The yellow sponge is used only for the coarsest kind of work, and is scarcely considered worthy of attention by the crews of sponging vessels. It is very abundant, owing to the fact that it has rarely been disturbed. The sheep's wool variety has been getting scarce of late years, and not enough of it can be procured now to supply half the demand for it. This scarcity seems natural enough when we consider that about 200 vessels and over a thousand men have been gathering it for nearly forty years, and making no effort to plant new beds.

The sponge business was begun about the year 1858 in Key West, and has been gradually increasing in importance until it may now be deemed one of the most valuable of our maritime industries.

The first catches of sponges were made along the Florida reefs in small boats, and from this petty beginning the industry has expanded until now it gives employment to about 2,000 people, and keeps a handsome fleet of nearly 200 vessels constantly cruising along the eastern shores of the Gulf of Mexico.

The vessels are well built, staunch and fast sailers, and equal to the best "mackerel men" of New England in equipment. They are supplied with the best of provisions in most generous quantities, and the crews are treated with great consideration.

The sponging vessels owned in Key West may be divided into two classes, the first being the reef fleet, which is composed of small craft that rarely go far from shore, doing most of their work along the Florida reefs; and the second being the main fleet, which includes all the large vessels capable of going on long cruises.

The vessels of this fleet carry crews numbering from seven to eleven men each, and are fitted out with the most modern implements. They carry provisions enough to last them two months, and at the end of that time they return home, sell their catch, and, after being refitted, start out again. Their cruising grounds extend from Anclote Key to St. Marks, and they work these faithfully, every sponge bank being carefully examined through the water glasses carried in the dinghies. The crews are divided into "hookers" and "scullers." The former lie breast down on the bows of the boats, and scan the bottom through the water glass, which is merely a piece of glass inserted in the bottom of a bucket.

In noticing a valuable piece of sponge the "hooker" directs the "sculler" how to move the boat so as to get it in the most convenient position, then insert his pole, armed with three iron claws, under the treasure, and by a quick, vigorous turn of the wrist brings it aboard.

The "hooker" is considered of more importance than the "sculler" as he must have greater experience, in order to tell the character of a sponge in all depths of water. Each boat has a "sculler" and "hooker," and when both are equally expert they take turns in "hooking."

As fast as a dinghey gets a load it hastens to the vessel and after discharging its cargo hurries back to the finishing grounds.

The cook has charge of the vessel during the absence of the boats, and he keeps as near them as he can, so that he experiences little difficulty in picking them up when the men want to go aboard for meals or to deliver their catch. The men are awake by dawn, and at work as soon as it is light enough for them to see what to do.

The crews are mainly composed of natives of the Bahamas, both black and white; though many of the captains belong to the mainland. The Bahamians are said to make the best sailors, as they are obedient, industrious, accustomed to the sea from childhood, and content with small earnings.

They are shipped by the "trips" of eight weeks, and before starting out usually receive an advance varying from ten dollars to twenty and any clothing they require. If married, their families are supported by the owners of the vessels during their absence, no money being called for until the trip is completed. If that is successful, the men may settle their accounts; if not, the shipowner must bear all losses, as he has no redress if they refuse to pay him.

The vessels run into port every Saturday, when they work on the sponge grounds, deposit their catch in kraals, which are mere inclosures of stakes driven into shallow water near the land, and leave it there for a week to soak.

They start off for the sponge grounds again early Monday morning, and on their return the following Saturday with another load they place it in the kraals and the crew devote most of the day to cleaning the catch of the previous week, by striking each piece on the palm of

the hand with a short stick until all the refuse is beaten out.

Some of the crew then run a stout cord through pieces of about equal size and quality and throw them in piles on the land to dry, while there they are guarded by two watchmen, who are paid by the entire fleet, each crew paying its pro rata.

The sponges are sometimes sold to wholesale buyers at the kraals, but are generally taken to the home port, placed on a wharf for inspection, and sold to the highest bidder.

The bids are made on slips of paper, handed to the captain of the vessel, and he decides which he shall accept or whether he will accept any, as he and not the shipowner has sole charge of the selling, because he represents the crew.

When the sponges are bought by the representative of a wholesale house they are taken to his warehouse, given over to the care of a number of men called "clippers," who clip off all the ragged ends and worthless parts, and give them the trim appearance they bear in the drug stores.

They are taken from the clipping into the packing room, where they are pressed into bales weighing from twenty to eighty pounds, the former being the usual weight of a bale of sheep's wool, and the latter of a bale of grass sponge. Yellow sponge is usually packed in forty pound bales.

After being tightly sewn in burlap, the sponges are shipped to their destination by steamer lines if possible. The clippers receive \$1.50 and the packers \$2 a day. Sheep shears are used for clipping the sponges.

It is estimated that there are nearly three-quarters of a million dollars invested in the sponge industry and that the annual value of the sponges taken vary from \$300,000 to \$1,000,000, as much depends on the character of the weather, the clearness of the water, and the abundance of the material.

The quantity of high-grade sponges secured is never enough to meet the demand, a fact that may be inferred from the reports of the custom house, which show that the United States imported sponges to the value \$5,503,203 during the years '87-'94. The exports for the same time amounted to only \$281,747, but these figures will soon be greatly increased if England continues to be a market for our grass sponge.

TARPON FISHING.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



THINK of catching a herring weighing one hundred and fifty pounds! Think of catching this giant with a rod and reel! This sounds like a fish story indeed, but it is a fact. The herring referred to is not the variety that we see smoked in the markets, but a big Southern brother, the tarpon.

This fish belongs to the herring family, so the authorities tell us. It grows to a length of five to seven feet and weighs from seventy-five to one hundred and eighty pounds. It is a beautifully proportioned fish, with a light green back and with very large silvery scales on its sides. While feeding it frequently comes to the top of the water and then disappears again with a kind of puffing noise.

This king of all game fish, as it is frequently called by enthusiastic anglers, is found in the lagoons of western Florida, off the Gulf of Mexico.

The winter season is the best time to fish, though there is that delightful (or otherwise) uncertainty about tarpon fishing that makes the unlucky angler wonder whether, after all, any other season or any other day is not more favorable than the one he has chosen.

We will take it for granted that we are not unlucky anglers and so start for a day's tarpon fishing.

An early start is necessary and a coat will be needed, for winter mornings, even in Florida, are apt to be raw and chilly. A guide is also necessary and every guide has positive information of a place where tarpon are sure to be found—and known only to himself. No two guides agree as to the location of these places, which is perhaps just as well for the comfort of rival parties of anglers. Each guide also is supplied with a large stock of fish stories that would put Ananias himself to shame, but they serve to pass away the time while we wait for the tarpon to bite.

The length of time is an unknown quantity. Perhaps we wait all day and catch nothing—this more frequently happens than otherwise.

When the tarpon does bite, however, he means business. He takes the bait gently and swims off quietly until he feels the pull of the line. Then off he darts like a shot, while the line whizzes through the reel, and springs clear

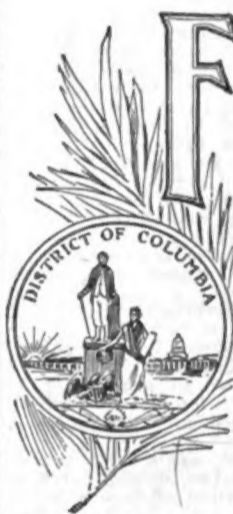
out of the water, shaking his head furiously and sometimes turning a complete somersault. This is the dangerous time for the angler, for if he does not lose his fish on the first jump the line may become entangled around its body and so be broken. The guide, meanwhile, follows the motions of the fish and pushes the boat around with a word of advice now and then. Some anglers let the guide handle the fish at first, but no true sportsman would do this, the fascination of the fight is too strong. After the first jump the tarpon settles down to business. Jumps follow one another in quick succession and the great fish darts here and there, now away from the boat, now towards it. Should the angler relax his attention for an instant, should he allow the fish any slack line, his victim is free, his efforts are lost. At length, however, the tarpon becomes tired—the steady strain on his mouth has its effect—the rushes are shorter, the jumps not so frequent and finally the fish is worked near the boat, fighting for life every inch of the way. Finally when near enough the guide kills it with a gaff.

A good angler can land a tarpon in half an hour, but it is a half hour of steady work—every muscle tense, every nerve strained. Three or four such fish and a man is ready to go home to supper, though on good days some anglers have caught eight or nine. Usually, however, if a man catches one he feels the day well spent—especially if it be his first one.

Unfortunately the tarpon is not esteemed as a food fish, so that those that are not mounted by fishermen as trophies are usually given to the farmers to use for fertilizer.

Origin of The District of Columbia.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



AR back in our history the story opens—back to the close of the American Revolution, when the seat of the Federal Government was in Philadelphia. There were many unpaid soldiers at that time, for the expenses of the war had been extremely heavy, and the country had much money yet to pay out besides that due to her soldiers. But the men, many of them uneducated and unreasonable, could not understand the delay, and so clamored for their pay, and raised such a disturbance around the old Statehouse in Philadelphia that Congress came to the conclusion that it was in need of a

city and a district which should belong exclusively to the United States, for the home of its Government, and for the transaction of its affairs. Accordingly, they caused it to be known that they were open to offers of land for such a purpose, and from 1787 to 1790 they received offers and suggestions, and talked, argued, and even wrangled over the matter. New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Trenton, Harrisburg, and many other places, urged their claims for being made the capital city, and for a long time it seemed impossible to make a selection. Maryland and Virginia both offered ground for the foundation of a new Federal District; many votes were taken, and at last an act was adopted by Congress which was approved by the President in July, 1790, giving to Washington himself the sole power to select a Federal Territory "not exceeding ten miles square, on the river Potomac, at some place between the mouths of the Eastern

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 13).

You can easily make three dollars a day working for us. Do not miss this chance of making good money. See the back page of this paper.

EVERY DAY IN THE YEAR

a man carries his keys about in his pocket, 365 chances every year to lose them never to recover them if his name is not attached in some way. A substantial steel ring with an ivory marker is a new idea. With ordinary ink your name, address, etc., can be written on the ivory tag and your keys returned to you if lost. Only a limited quantity at 4c. each. Good discount to agents and street men. Address LANE & CO., Augusta, Maine.

DETECTIVE Shrewd, reliable man wanted in every locality. Act under orders. No experience needed. American Detective Ass'n, Indianapolis, Ind.

LADIES WANTED to take up stamping at home. We pay 10 cents an hour while learning. H. F. JONES, Dept. I, Brooklyn, N. Y.

TAKE ORDERS FOR GROCERIES and get a 112-piece Dinner Set, Furniture, Couch, Skirt, Tea Set, Sewing Machine, etc. Free, also cash commission. NO MONEY REQUIRED. We pay freight. AMERICAN SUPPLY CO., Dep. 57, 119 Locust St., St. Louis, Mo.

CONFECTION,
FOOD,
MEDICINE.



Two Thousand Packages Shelled Peanuts
SENT FREE.
SELL 12 PACKAGES AND GET A WATCH.

The art of shelling and salting peanuts has just reached perfection. As a confection they are peerless, as a food unequaled. German scientists have spent years experimenting with Peanut flour. It is found to contain three times the nutriment of wheat; and whole salted peanuts, being so much more palatable than wheat, have also been found with a slight addition of Pepsin Salt to be a sure cure for Dyspepsia and other stomach, kidney and liver troubles. Yes, even persons with Bright's Disease or Diabetes can now be cured. It is only necessary for old or young to eat a few of our Pepsin Salted Peanuts after meals to keep in perfect health—but they can also be eaten in any quantity as a confection without the least distress or trouble to the weakest stomach. Children delight to feast on them and they are much better than candy. They also cure Heart Burn and Indigestion. To Form Part of the Treat or Refreshments at party gatherings, socials, etc., they are indispensable, and to have them on the table as dessert is the best of form. Everyone, both old and young, now wants a few in the pocket at all times to nibble on—for with all the troublesome oils properly treated as they are in our special process of Curing and Roasting Peanuts, they have at last lost all terrors to weak stomachs, and are warranted not to become rancid, and to keep well in any climate. FREE We will send two thousand packages of these Pepsin Salted Peanuts out to respond to a FREE get a watch, a guaranteed good timekeeper. But to first introduce them quickly we send one package as a sample free to any one enclosing six cents for a three months' subscription to COMFORT. You can then test them and see how many packages you want to start with. No attention paid to first orders without trial 6c subscription. Write at once and be among the first to get the free packages. Address, COMFORT FOOD DEPT L, Augusta, Maine.

THE ELECTRIC FURNACE.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



LECTRICITY has passed through three stages in development; first it was applied to the telegraph and the wonder of the age was that messages could be sent from end to end of a continent or under the sea; next its power was used for lighting and it is said that should the whole power of Niagara be used in producing one enormous electric light its power would be so great that it could easily be seen from the moon were there any inhabitants to view the wonder, and some even imagine that our neighbor Mars might perceive its brilliance; but now comes the third stage in its development, that is, its use in transmitting power. No longer are cars and carriages propelled by its power, objects of especial interest on our city streets, but its use in furnaces and for heating purposes is not yet common enough to be without interest to the public. Already many of the arts, especially those relating to the working of metals, are being completely changed.

Electric furnaces are simple in construction, consisting of an electric arc, similar to that in the arc light, enclosed in a masonry box or oven. Through the carbons between which the electric arc is formed, a very strong electric current may be allowed to flow, raising the temperature within the furnace to such a height that it cannot be measured but is estimated at six thousand degrees Fahrenheit. Of course such a furnace as just described would be used only in laboratories, but the furnaces of the great electric power companies at Niagara are constructed on the same general principle. They are built loosely of fire brick, without chimney, doors, or drafts. At either side are the electric connections, through which may be carried to the carbon core the electricity which is to do the work required. When that is done the furnace is "blown off," so that the heat is allowed to escape and the heap of fire brick which is left is mere rubbish, for nothing yet discovered can withstand such heat.

But, we ask, what is the use of such heat as this? The answer which the scientist gives us may be something like this: "The heat of the electric furnace will, within a few years, revolutionize the useful arts. The rarest gems which our earth affords will be duplicated by means of this heat, and combined with great pressure even diamonds may be produced by the bucketful. Not only shall we produce, but, by means of the furnace, we may discover how in the ages long gone by the wonderful forces of nature worked on a larger scale than we now work in a small furnace."

So much for prophecy, but what has actually been done? Not many years ago the world had scarcely heard of aluminum; to-day even kitchen utensils are made of it, and this change has been effected by the means of the electric

furnace. Clay is heated to such a high temperature that it melts and the aluminum is separated from the impurities. This introduction of a new and cheap material into the manufacture of dishes is a valuable acquisition, as tin has for years been growing more expensive.

Lime and carbon are united in the furnace to form a new compound called carbide of lime, which being dropped into water decomposes forming acetylene gas. This will in time become a valuable illuminant and it is now used almost entirely in France and Germany, but it is very explosive and its use has not been generally adopted in this country, while in England it is forbidden.

Then, too, graphite is extensively manufactured in the electric furnace, and to-day our lead pencils, stove blacking and lubricants of most kinds owe their being to this wonder of the age.

But of all the wonders yet worked by electric power probably the most interesting to us all are the experiments for the production of diamonds and other precious stones by artificial means. Some eight years ago the eminent French chemist, Moissan, announced to the world that he had, in his laboratory, produced genuine diamonds. In an electric furnace he melted pure iron and powdered carbon or charcoal. When the temperature had attained a height of 6000 degrees Fahrenheit the crucible containing the fused mass was quickly plunged into cold water or molten lead so that it was suddenly cooled, causing great pressure to be exerted on the mass. When cold the iron was dissolved by means of acids, and the tiny crystals of the carbon or pure diamonds were left. These are not artificial diamonds. They will answer every test of the geologist or jeweler but they are very small. Think of the common bit of charcoal or carbon lying by the side of the road! Who would for a moment think that it was a near relative to the sparkling jewel on "my lady's" hand? It was not until early in this century that chemists decided that the diamond was composed of only one substance and that pure carbon. Within the last decade it was discovered that diamonds were contained in meteoric iron, that the iron and carbon dust plunging through the upper atmosphere became suddenly cooled and formed the diamond and iron which was pulled to the earth as a meteor. It was by following this clue that Moissan succeeded as he did. The only drawback, now, to the wholesale manufacture of diamonds, is the fact that man has not yet mastered nature's secret of great pressure. Great heat man has attained, but great pressure he has still to strive for.

In a similar way ruby, emerald, sapphire and amethyst might be produced by crystallizing kaolin, which is the pure form of oxide of aluminum; while the ruby and opal might be made from the common quartz sand on our beaches.

Constantly experiments are being carried on by chemists in all parts of the world, but notably at Niagara, where the terrific force of the great cataract is transmitted along copper wires to gigantic dynamos. Already several new substances have been formed and some of the tiny crystals formed have so closely resembled diamonds that it will not be surprising if we hear of the real thing at last being produced—when man has mastered the art of pressure.

In all times and ages man has attempted to understand, to overcome and to reproduce the forces of nature. He is doing the same to-day. Millions on millions of years ago carbon and the other elements existed, were heated and pressure applied so that the crystals we have to-day were formed. Then the sun's heat helped the great tree ferns to grow and to fall, it caused the great volcanic eruptions which covered the forests, heated and pressed them into coal, and to-day man digs that coal from the earth, makes of it carbon pencils through

which he carries electric power and attempts the same process which nature used in the days before time was.

BERWICK SPONGE CAKE.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



Of the present generation of New England people Berwick sponge cake is only a name, but their fathers and mothers have toothsome recollections of the excellence of this old-time dainty. Few among them, however, know the origin and history of the delicious sponge cake upon which all travelers through North Berwick, Maine, invariably lavished their small coins.

In 1845, an employee of the Boston and Maine Railroad, named William C. Briggs, had the misfortune to lose a leg through an accident on the road. The railroad company were somewhat to blame, and Briggs threatened a lawsuit. Rather than submit to this the Company made him several compensatory offers if he would relinquish his purpose, but he was dissatisfied with all. At last he proposed to them that they should fit him up a restaurant at North Berwick, Maine, and agree to halt there for five minutes every train which passed by. The Company gladly agreed, and the restaurant was started. This was before the days of dining cars and buffet lunches, and travelers were dependent on station lunch rooms and trainboys for their meals. Mrs. Briggs was a famous cook and the restaurant thrived mightily, and the Briggs family were already looking up in the world when the fertile brain of Mrs. Briggs devised a new sponge cake, lighter, sweeter and more golden-yellow than had ever been before conceived. The public—the traveling public—were simply enraptured. No such cake had ever been dreamed of; its fame flew far and wide and it found thousands of purchasers. Every one passing through North Berwick bought sponge cake whether he needed it or not. It was made and sold in all sizes, from the immense loaf in a huge wooden box to the tiny square costing ten cents—the smallest sum for which it could be obtained. It was ordered in quantities for restaurants and hotels and for private people in far away cities.

The Briggs family rapidly increased in wealth; great sums were offered them for the secret of the manufacture of their famous cake, but they refused to reveal it. Every batch of it was concocted by Mrs. Briggs herself, and no one was allowed to watch her as she mixed it. Nothing concerning either her ingredients or her methods ever leaked out except that she beat her eggs in a churn.

For twenty years Briggs managed his restaurant and sold many a toothsome delicacy besides the famous cake—a custard pie of Mrs. Briggs' making having great local celebrity—and at length waxed so rich that he disposed of the business and retired into private life, where he speculated, lost his wealth, and died a poor man.

Submarine Torpedoes and Wireless Telegraphy.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



NE of the most diabolical of recent inventions is that of wireless telegraphy as applied to the guidance of submarine torpedoes. In its action it seems almost human, and it must be a fearful thing to be on board of a ship which is being chased to destruction by one of these missiles of death. The torpedo itself is not materially different from those in common use, but it is supplied with two staffs which project above the surface of the water and receive electric waves reaching them through the air and generated by a suitable apparatus on the torpedo boat. To the rudimentary of the torpedo are attached two coils of wire with two cores of iron near them. When an electric current passes around the coils in one direction one of the cores is sucked into the coils of wire; while if the current circulates in the other direction the other core enters its spiral. Now, if it is desired to alter the course of the torpedo, electric waves are developed on the torpedo boat, pass through the air, and are received by the staffs attached to the torpedo. These in turn are made to develop an electric current in the coils of wire, and one or the other of the cores, as is needed, is sucked into its coil, and this movement turns the helm of the torpedo. As soon as the torpedo has turned in the desired direction the waves of electricity from the torpedo boat are stopped.

In this way a torpedo can be made to follow the course of a ship in its flight, and no matter how often its destination may be changed, it cannot escape the torpedo, since this invention enables it to turn as correctly and as frequently as may be necessary to follow and reach its prey. Think of being on board of such a doomed vessel and watching your fate steadily and relentlessly pursuing you through the water, and giving you no loophole of escape! Does not the very thought bring a shudder?

But this invention is at present too costly for general use, and it is to be hoped, too, that the same inventive genius which has evolved this missile of destruction will also furnish a rebutting agency for the use of the pursued ship—a power which will be able to either destroy or turn back the relentless torpedo.

Queer Uses of Telegraph Poles.



LONDON paper tells us that when telegraph wires and poles were first introduced in some countries the moaning of the wind through the wires had a curious effect upon birds and animals, and bears and woodpeckers especially were destructive in trying to get inside the poles to discover what was causing the noise.

In Algeria 'tis said that some of the savage tribes made the copper wire into nose rings and used the porcelain insulators as drinking cups.

SEND NO MONEY

WE ASK NO MONEY UNTIL YOU HAVE EXAMINED THE MACHINE AND CONVINCED YOURSELF THAT IT IS SUCH A MACHINE AS WAS NEVER BEFORE OFFERED AT ANYTHING LIKE THE PRICE.

OUR OFFER.

YOU NEED NOT SEND US ONE CENT OF MONEY, but if you have any for a high grade, 30-year guaranteed, 5-drawer drop head cabinet Edgemere Sewing Machine, mention Special Offer No. 43K, write your name plainly and in full, name of postoffice and nearest railroad station, and we will send you this high grade, 5-drawer, drop head cabinet, full marquetrie decorated **EDGEMERE SEWING MACHINE** to your nearest railroad station for you to see and examine. **YOU CAN CLAIM THE SEWING MACHINE** at your nearest railroad station. You can call in an expert to examine it, compare it with sewing machines that others sell at \$40.00 to \$60.00, and if everyone pronounces it in every way the equal of such machines, by far the lowest price ever attempted for such a high grade, high arm, drop head cabinet machine, the most wonderful bargain you ever heard of, pay the freight agent **OUR SPECIAL OFFER PRICE, \$12.75**, and freight charges. The machine weighs, crated for shipment, about 120 pounds, and the freight charges will average about 50 to 75 cents for each 500 miles. If the machine is not satisfactory in every way, if you do not consider it one of the handsomest, best finished and best working sewing machines ever made, regardless of price, you will not be under the slightest obligation to take it, but you can return it to us at our expense of freight charges both ways.

THREE MONTHS' FREE TRIAL. As a guarantee that the Edgemere Sewing Machine will give the best of satisfaction, that it is the equal of any other machine sold in your market, we give you the privilege of using this machine in your own home for three months, and if, at any time during the three months you become dissatisfied for any cause whatever, if you find that it fails to do what any other sewing machine will do, as well, you can return it to us at our expense of freight charges both ways and we will return your money.

OUR 20 YEARS' BINDING GUARANTEE. With every Edgemere Sewing Machine at \$12.75, we issue a written, binding, 20 years' guarantee, by the terms and conditions of which, if any piece or part gives out by reason of defect in material or workmanship, we will replace or repair it **FREE OF CHARGE.**

SPECIAL FEATURES OF OUR \$12.75 EDGEMERE.

5-DRAWER DROP-HEAD CABINET. A great improvement over the old style, upright wood-work, so constructed that when not in use the head may be dropped out of sight, where it is protected from dust and dirt, and affords you a handsome desk, stand or table.

COLOR MARQUETRY DECORATION. From the illustrations which are engraved by our design of the handsome colored marquetrie decoration on the Edgemere Cabinet, the Edgemere Cabinet is made of solid oak, highly finished and finely decorated, with handsome colored marquetrie floral design decoration on the panels, drawers, top and corners, with a handsome colored marquetrie tape inlaid on front edge of table.

HIGH ARM. Our \$12.75 Edgemere has one of the highest arms of any sewing machine made, giving ample room for the handling of large and bulky material.

FINISH. Our \$12.75 Edgemere is given an extra fine finish throughout. Has a heavy nickel plated face plate, nickel plated balance wheel, very finest full finished enameled with fancy colored decoration and ornamentation.

ATTACHMENTS FURNISHED. With our \$12.75 Edgemere we furnish a very complete set of attachments free, including 1 foot hemmer, 1 tucker, 1 thread cutter, 8 screwdrivers, 1 ruffler, 1 quilter, 6 bobbins, 1 package of needles, 1 gauge, 1 set of plain hemmers of different widths up to 1/4 of an inch, one oil can filled with oil and an instruction book.

OUR NEW 1900 MODEL EDGEMERE has every modern improvement, all the up-to-date points of every high-grade machine made; the newest style five-drawer cabinet, made of solid oak, beautifully finished, highly polished and decorated with colored marquetrie. It comes with four side drawers and one center drawer, the latest 1900 model skeleton frame, one of the most massive, most complete and expensive sewing machine cabinets made; carved, paneled, embossed and finished with colored marquetrie decoration; fine nickel plated drawer pulls, rests on four casters, has a saxon adjusted treadle and the best full black enameled iron stand made.

OUR SPECIAL \$12.75 PRICE is based on the actual cost of material and labor with but our one small percentage of profit added. If you buy an Edgemere Sewing Machine from us, at \$12.75 you will get one of the handsomest machines that was ever seen in your section, you will get a machine at less than your dealer can buy the same grade machine in carload lots, you will get a strictly high grade, 30-year guaranteed sewing machine, complete with every new up-to-date attachment, put up in one of the handsomest 5-drawer solid oak, color decorated, drop head cabinets, you will get a sewing machine the equal of which you can buy only from your dealer at home at two to three times our price.



THIS ILLUSTRATION gives you an idea of the appearance of the high grade, high arm **EDGEMERE SEWING MACHINE** which we **\$12.75** in the handsome, 5-drawer, drop head, oak cabinet illustrated; one of the best high arm heads made. Positive four motion feed, self-threading, vibrating shuttle; automatic bobbin winder, adjustable bearings, patent tension liberator, improved nickel plated loose wheel, adjustable presser foot, improved shuttle carrier, patent needle bar, patent dress guard, patent belt controller. The head is handsomely decorated and ornamented, full nickel plated face plate, black enameled base; handsome colored transfer ornamentations; beautiful nickelled trimmings throughout.



No. 43K ORDER BY NUMBER.

THIS ILLUSTRATION gives you an idea of the appearance of our special \$12.75 5-drawer, Drop Head Cabinet Edgemere Machine closed, to be used as a writing desk, center table or stand. The head drops completely from sight, table folds up and being of highly finished antique oak, very elaborately decorated in colored marquetrie decorations, you have really a beautiful piece of furniture. The illustrations and descriptions can give you but a faint idea of the handsome machine the Edgemere is, of the wonderful value we are furnishing at \$12.75. You must see it, examine it, use it and compare it with other machines to really appreciate what we are offering. Our free-to-examine offer, our three months' free trial, our 30-year binding guarantee and our established reputation make you perfectly safe in sending your order to us.

HOW TO COMPARE

OUR \$12.75 EDGEMERE

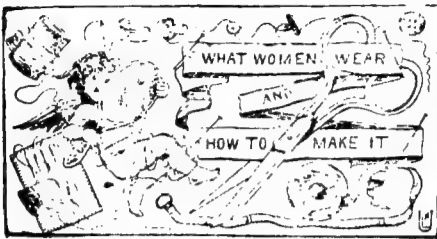
Do not compare our special \$12.75 Edgemere Machine with any of the cheap, shoddy sewing machines that are being widely advertised by houses, some of questionable reputation, at prices ranging from almost nothing up to \$30.00. If you want to appreciate the value we are giving, the difference between the \$12.75 Edgemere and the machines advertised by others at the same and higher prices, let us send you an Edgemere to your nearest railroad station, let any other house send you their machine at the same time, compare them side by side, and if you do not find the Edgemere cheaper in price and from \$10.00 to \$20.00 better in quality and finish, you can return the machine to us at our expense.

VERY LIGHT RUNNING. Our Special \$12.75 EDGEMERE

is one of the lightest running, most durable and noiseless machine made.

OUR INSTRUCTION BOOK makes everything so plain that even a child without previous experience can quickly learn to operate the Edgemere, and do any work that can be done on any sewing machine.

SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO., CHEAPEST SUPPLY HOUSE ON EARTH, CHICAGO, ILL.



WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



ONE of these days some clever woman is going to invent a corset which shall effectually cover all the needs of the stout woman. To be sure there are dozens of widely advertised corsets on the market, all of which claim to reduce the hips and abdomen, as well as reduce the waist by several inches. If we pause to think a moment we can readily see that by reducing, or compressing one portion the other must suffer. If the corset is tightened at the waist more than is absolutely natural, the flesh is pushed down causing the abdomen to protrude abnormally, also the hips to a more or less degree. I am going to tell you of the device of a young woman who felt and saw herself daily growing stouter and stouter. Drawing her corsets in their usual way was uncomfortable and only resulted in a prominent stomach and big lumps at the hips bordering the corset line. She had a number of celebrated corsets tried on, none of which made her any smaller because they were all long and heavily boned; finally, in sheer desperation, she put on a pair of very short corsets, hardly more than a girdle and found to her intense delight she had found what she wanted. The secret of success, however, depended largely on the way they were adjusted. After they were clasped and before the laces were drawn into place, she pulled them down in front until they entirely supported the abdomen; then the hose supporters were adjusted snugly, helping keep the corset in place. To assist this arrangement,



the avoirdupois was lifted and kneaded into the top of the corset. Then the lower lace, composing the waist was drawn comfortably and my lady found herself with the new laced figure and declared she had never been so comfortable before. To be sure her waist measure was increased two inches, but her "stomach" was perfectly flat and her lines exceedingly graceful. The theory of heavy, stiff corsets for the stout figures is all bosh. The more pliant the corset the more pleasing the effect.

The English are sending us some stunning things in cloaks for traveling, driving, or rain. One which I considered especially fetching is a dark brown color in a crisp, smooth cloth, impervious to rain and dust alike. It is cut in Raglan form, perfectly loose and finished with a notched coat collar. There are large pockets at the front, and a little silk yoke inside to keep it from getting out of gear. When worn with a suitable hat there can be no more effective rig. All of these new coats are long, to the foot of the skirt, usually thirty-eight inches or four inches from the ground and can be worn with the rainy day skirt.

Another smart style is made up in a silk material, rain-proof, in all colors, black, gray, wine, blue and brown. From a square yoke the silk is box-plaited at the back and perfectly plain at the front. A coat collar and large coat sleeves complete the garment.

The latest thing in the way of belts and neck fixings is the application of black velvet ribbon at each. The wide velvet probably two inches

in width, is selected for the belt, requiring four and one-half yards. Divide this exactly even, and fasten the center to the center of the skirt band, then draw to the back, cross, and fasten in front with a small bow and long ends. The neck is arranged in the same manner, having shorter ends, however. The fact that the velvet is attached to the garment makes it most convenient of adjustment.

Narrow velvet ribbon is used lavishly on gowns of all sorts of fabrics, both as a binding and in bands laid flatly. A favorite bodice decoration is tiny rosettes of this stuff arranged in rows down the front and at the hand.

One of the daintiest sleeves conceivable is made up in the Bishop fashion quite full at the wrist and fastened with a tiny band of velvet ribbon which ties in a bow knot.

Sailor collars are the latest cry and are applied to all manner of bodices. Usually it is made of some sheer fabric in linen, (tan batiste being a favorite) and delicately finished with fine hand hemstitching or a delicate embroidery. These collars are large enough to reach over the shoulders and impart a wonderfully youthful look to the figure.

The collarless Eton bids fair to be one of our pets during the coming fall and winter. One can easily see how they will adapt themselves to the use of fur collars, etc.

English tailors are crying short skirts; not the abbreviated sort, to be sure, but those of a walking length, clearing the ground all around and doing entirely away with the necessity of tiring one's arm holding them up. However, this applies only to street gowns; trailing skirts are far too becoming and have won their way in our affections too securely to be banished altogether, and so the long skirt will still reign for indoor and evening toilettes, as well as reception and calling costumes. For my part I love even the tailor-mades as long and clinging as possible, and for one shall bid them a reluctant farewell.

Separate waists made up of all-over tucked stuffs, either cotton or silk are much to the fore; the tucks laid bias on both body and arms—made in this manner, with a stock and frou-frou frill of lace or embroidery finishing the front, the effect is remarkably chic. I saw such a waist made up in tan linen batiste, with a stock and jabot frill of batiste embroidery.

Among this season's most charming models I noticed a costume in sky blue veiling, very light; the skirt was shaped and did not come within two-finger's width of the ground. The pretty small bolero was braided with tiny black velvet ribbon, and opened over a chemise of white lawn, very simple, having finely frilled sleeves, trimmed at the wrist with black velvet, and extending beyond the sleeves of the bolero which were turned up. The shoes and stockings worn with this rig were of a pale gray color, while the large soft hat of yellow straw had a thick wreath of ivy and a big flat black velvet bow across the front.

Fichus are worn with all possible gowns and go far toward giving an air of daintiness and distinction to a simple toilette. Those made of point de esprit are especially favored; very pretty ones having a set of frills as a finish, each frill bound with narrow white satin ribbon. Sometimes white satin, or a colored ribbon, two or three inches in width is used to fasten them over the breast, forming a bow with long ends mingling with the ends of the fichu.

A dainty little frock of wool in stripes in black and white of equal width has the narrow skirt set together in herring bone fashion, a piping of black velvet intersecting each breadth; at the foot each seam is left open to a little below the knees displaying a hollow pleat underneath, giving a decided flare. The bodice has the stripes arranged horizontally, and has a long, narrow guimpe of tucked white muslin, with full bishop sleeves of the same set off by a band and knot of velvet at the hand. Bands of the velvet pass over the shoulders connecting the bodice with a small bow and steel buckle on each shoulder. The collar is a combination of blue panne and black velvet, while the dash of blue at the belt gives the completing touch.

PERFUMES.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



AFTER the modiste has modeled and the milliner created there is one very essential thing left. Before "my lady's toilet is complete a good perfume of the right kind is necessary, and if we can't have a conservatory handy we must turn to the manufactured violet, rose, or jasmine.

The story is told that a favorite of an eastern harem was the discoverer of otto-rose. Through her garden flowed (artificially of course) a stream of rose water on whose surface were noticed little oily drops. These she collected in her hand for amusement and to her delight found these drops gave forth an unusually delightful odor. This was found to be the oil of otto of the rose, and from this incident sprang up the manufacture of this kind of perfume, with its center in Bulgaria. The warm sun's rays with plenty of rich soil are the only requisites in growing the roses which produce a good amount of this oil. The oil of rose geranium is often employed to adulterate otto-rose which is very expensive when absolutely pure. In Corsica and Algiers these

geraniums are grown for the perfume market. To get the essential oil the whole plant is put into the still with frequently a few rose leaves added to improve the quality.

Many of our common perfumes, violet for example, are made up of a combination of other things which is a very good imitation of the real flower. When a blossom is as small as the violet the cost of growing and gathering is so great it rarely pays, and a composition oforris-root with other ingredients is commonly substituted. However the French perfumers export the most delicate at the same time there is little real violet perfume in the market and in the south of France this little flower is grown extensively for their use. Here, too, tuberose are cultivated from which cologne water is made by what is called the "enfleurage" process. The flowers are placed in contact with thin layers of grease spread on panes of glass, the blossoms being renewed each day. This last takes the odor from these blossoms. Finally when it is saturated with the perfume it is steeped in alcohol which too has a strong affinity for odors and so absorbs the essential oil from the grease. Musk is often used to accentuate an odor and to make it more lasting.

Chemists are constantly discovering how to reproduce perfumes without the flowers. From coal oil an odor of carnations has been evolved and perhaps ere long the laboratory will produce perfumes which will replace those obtained by distillation from blossoms.

ORIGIN OF AN OLD STORY.



HE book we know as "Arabian Nights" is founded on this tale:

Once there lived a wicked Sultan of Persia who daily married and the following day would behead his bride. Finally the Vizier's daughter married him and vowed she would do something to turn him from his murderous plans. And she devised this means. She told him a very exciting story which had to be interrupted by cares of his office and in order to hear the conclusion he postponed her execution. Night after night these stories were concluded and another begun and a "thousand and one nights" had elapsed, a period of two years and nine months. During this time the Sultan had grown so fond of his wife that he abolished his cruel edict forever.

FITS Permanently Cured. No fits or nervousness after first day's use of Dr. Kline's Great Nerve Restorer. Send for FREE \$2.00 trial bottle and treatise. DR. R. H. KLINE, Ltd., 531 E Arch St., Philadelphia, Pa.

Eight Page Music 2 1-2 Cents Each.

Many of the pieces of full page sheet music advertised under our great music offer consist of eight full pages printed on heavy white paper and have colored covers. You can get ten pieces of music for 25 cents. Read COMFORT's music offer.

"Be Stylish; Save Money."



ONLY \$1.69

for this lovely trimmed HAT. You can have your money back if you don't think it worth \$4.

Write for free illustrated full winter catalog.

No. 1907.—Black shape, fine quality English felt. Brim raised at left side in mushroom or cup effect and droops low in back and over the hair. The black velvet draping is applied with polka dots of heavy cream lace and is arranged in high side effect, strapped down over back of brim. Soft black coques in plume style and an artistic arrangement of turquoise velvet in front and drawn through to finish bandeau, completes an extremely jaunty hat. For details we deliver this or any trimmed

hat safely by express to your nearest express office in the United States. CHICAGO HAT ORDER MILLINERY CO., CHICAGO, ILL. 45-55 East Jackson Boulevard.

Please mention COMFORT when you write.

Locomotor Ataxia Cured by Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People

This is the sworn statement of a man who was cured:

"My lower limbs seemed to be dying—losing all sense of outward feeling. The most excruciating pains made me almost wild with misery and I could not stand alone. I tried electricity with no avail. Several physicians gave me treatment which was not effective. One day I read of a man who had Locomotor Ataxia, and cured by the use of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People. I procured a half dozen boxes, and took them before I was convinced a cure was possible, and finally used one box a week. My pains gradually disappeared, color came to my flesh, I could walk, run and jump, and actually dispensed with a cane."

JOEL STROMAKER, Editor Farmer and Dairyman, North Yakima, Wash. Subscribed and sworn to before me, this 3d day of January, 1899. JAS. R. COX, County Clerk.

Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People are never sold by the dozen or hundred, but always in packages. At all druggists, or direct from the Dr. Williams Medicine Co., Schenectady, N. Y., 50 cents per box, 6 boxes \$2.50.

\$18 to \$35 WEEKLY MEN and WOMEN

At Home or Travelling. Mr. Smith, of Ind., made \$27.50 first 6 months. Albert Hill, of N. J., \$28 first month. Mr. Muncy, of Texas, \$12.50 first 2 hours. Carrie Williams, clerk, \$144 in 6 weeks. Mrs. Hitchcox, \$222, besides housekeeping. Lida Kennedy, \$24.00 who teaches.

LET US START YOU—No experience needed. Our agents made over \$47,000.00 last month supplying the enormous demand for our famous Quaker Bath Cabinet, and appointing agents. Wonderful SELLERS. Everybody buys—business men, families and physicians. No cash advance, fraud or false methods. Write Today for Our Proposition, New Plan, etc. FREE. World Mfg. Co., 47 World Bldg., Cincinnati, O. (We recommend above firm as reliable.—Editor.)

FREE A HIGH GRADE

FULLY WARRANTED Solid Gold or Silver Watch for a few hours work amongst your friends and neighbors. Send us your name and address and we will send you \$2.00 worth assorted jewelry on credit. After you sell this send us the money and you will receive watch or other premium. G. King Harvard Co., 153 Washington St., Chicago.

ARE YOU ASHAMED OF YOUR FACE? If face, beautiful neck, can be had by all who send five 3-cent stamps for postage, wrapping, etc., of a large trial size of our Great Beautifier, we will also send a package of Arabian Scent and a booklet on beauty, all free. Goodwill Chem. Co., Room 223, Wansley Bldg., Baltimore, Md.

FREE WE GIVE AWAY FREE one rolled gold necklace for every 20 packages of Garfield Pure Peppermint Gum. Send 5 cents a package. Send full name; we mail you. When sold and money; we will mail you; few can tell from taken back. Garfield Pure Peppermint Gum. GARFIELD GUM CO., 117, READING, PA.

WANTED! WOMEN and GIRLS to do plain needle work at home. We furnish materials and pay from \$7.00 to \$12.00 per week. Send stamped envelope to Desk C, ROYAL CO., 34 Monroe St., Chicago.

Magic Seals also BIRTH STONES, wear on your person. Thousands testify to the good results obtained by wearing them. Full particulars free. Address P. & M. AGENCY, Dept. 209, Palmyra, Pa.

OPIUM and Liqueur Habit cured in 10 to 20 days. No pay till cured. Write DR. J. L. STEPHENS CO., Dept. C1, Lebanon, Ohio.

A Big Lot of Real Silk and Plush Also Stamped Satin

REMNANTS FOR CRAZY PATCHWORK.

ART in needle work is on the advance. We know the ladies delight in odd pieces of silk and plush and in making is again very popular. We are sure we have a bargain that all ladies will now delight in. Bright, handsome, odd-shaped, and pretty colored goods accumulate very fast at all NECKTIE FACTORIES; the styles were never so bright and pretty as they are now. These are now bartered with remnants of many other goods. We have thousands of pieces of silk and plush on hand which we are going to give you a big trade on. People at a distance have hard times getting the right assortment to put into sofa-pillows, quilts, etc., and we can help you out now. We are going to dispose of this immense lot RIGHT OFF. Our packages contain from 99 to 108 pieces of the best quality assorted goods, and we want to get a lot introduced into every home; then you can order as you like for your friends, and MAKE MONEY doing our work and helping yourself also. Remember these pieces are carefully trimmed, and especially adapted to all sorts of fancy, art, and needle work. Many ladies sell ties, fancy pillows, etc., at a great price made from these remnants. Order one sample lot now for only 25c. It would cost many dollars bought at a store. **Grand Offer:** If you order our great assortment lot at ONCE, we will give you several rich, bright and beautiful stamped satin pieces; each piece contains nine square inches and being stamped by hand with a graceful design for embroidery, is a great bargain.

Five Skeins Embroidery Silks Free. In order to work your stamped satin and other pieces we also send absolutely FREE five skeins of elegant embroidery silk, all different bright colors. This silk is worth nearly the price we ask for the remnants; but we know if you ORDER ONCE we will sell many in your locality, to make this liberal offer besides giving you a large and elegant piece of Plush containing 36 square inches.

BEST WAY. We send ONE of the above complete assortment lots FREE to all who send 25 cents for 6 months' subscription to "COMFORT," the best Home Monthly now published, to your friends and neighbors. We will send free with each package our great book, With Eight Full-Page Illustrations, for ornamenting the seams of Crazy Patchwork, or for other ornamental work where Fancy Stitches are used. It shows how pieces for patchwork may be put together to get the best effect, how to cover up seams with fancy stitches, how to join edges, etc.

Remember we send one big lot (over 100 pieces) Silk Remnants, the assorted stamped satin piece 5 Skeins Embroidery silk; 36 square inches plush, and a great 15c. book on embroidery together with 6 months' subscription to "COMFORT," all for only 25 cents. Three lots and one year's subscription, 65 cents; five lots \$1.00. Address,

COMFORT, Silk Dept. R, Augusta, Maine.

COMFORT

THE KEY TO A Million and a Quarter Homes.

It has the largest sworn circulation of any publication of any kind, anywhere.

The Only Monthly in the World Printed in five to eight bright colors on a perfecting press, which takes the paper from rolls, prints and binds it complete.

It is regularly read by more people than any other paper or magazine in America. Its matter is original, copyrighted and cannot be found elsewhere.

Its watchword is "Onward and Upward." It presents something new, novel and entertaining for each and every member of each and every household.

IT IS THE PEOPLE'S PAPER.

TERMS: 50c. PER YEAR IN ADVANCE.

SUBSCRIPTIONS are entered on our books as soon as received, and are always dated from the current issue, unless otherwise ordered. POSTAGE to all parts of the United States and Canada is prepaid by us. CHANGE OF ADDRESS. When ordering change in address, be sure to give former as well as new address. We cannot find your name on our books unless you do. Due notice given upon expiration of subscription. COMFORT was started and its subscription price fixed on the basis of an 8 page paper it has been voluntarily enlarged to 12, 16 and 24 pages. When more than 12 pages are now given the subscriber can consider it a gift from the publisher.

(Entered at the Post Office at Augusta, Maine, as second-class mail matter.)

Published Monthly at Augusta, Maine.

Eastern Office, Hancock Building.

New York Office, Temple Court. Chicago Office, Marquette Building.

Guaranteed Circulation:

ONE MILLION TWO HUNDRED AND FIFTY THOUSAND COPIES, Each and Every Issue.

Or Exceeding 15 Millions A Year.

September as far as the work-a-day world goes marks the beginning of another period of effort. Schools, factories and general business throw off the vacation air and commence to "get up steam." Nature recognizes no such distinction and calls to the crowds hurrying cityward with her most enticing voices. Sky and water and wood do not hear the knell to their reign that September first rings. To those fortunate enough to be able to prolong vacation hours, September seems the best vacation month, for it is the maturity of summer, not the childhood of autumn.

There are many people who endeavor to calm their view of current history by looking at it in perspective. The actual horrors of the situations in China, South Africa, the Philippines and India are depressing to even the most hopeful, buoyant temperament. Those who consider the situation apart from the moral standpoint or from the physical one see in all this the final struggle between the forces and powers of barbarism and ignorance and those of civilization. In the end the greatest civilization must conquer and if we close our eyes to the alphas and consider only results it may be the easiest method of avoiding pessimism.

It is rather amusing to find women falling back upon the precedent of history, custom and tradition to prove that a life of ease and luxury was intended for her. A woman lawyer in Chicago recently convinced a jury that her woman client could not be convicted as a vagrant because it was contrary to precedent that women should work. The case was decided in favor of the "vagrant." At the moment that the woman lawyer was clearing her client she was undermining her own right and claim to a hearing as a woman who not only worked but entered a field supposedly reserved to men. There is such a feminine lack of logic in the situation united with a feminine quickness of comprehension that it contains volumes on the "woman question." Women have been clamoring for the right to work for the past quarter of a century. Now one of those who has gained the right defends her sister by throwing over her crime of begging the rose light of custom and tradition.

A somewhat childish fad of European origin is coming into favor in America. This is the card postal embellished by pictures in crude colors. A penny stamp and a colored card make the new postal combination. These cards have long been favorite methods of remembrance from European countries. The pictures of buildings, scenery and persons save the old time descriptive letter. We have imported the idea but have shown a tendency to render it absurd. Bright colored pictures of the presidential nominees with the cheering prediction "Our Next President" indicate the local preference and the general interest. The horrible disaster of the burning ships of the Hamburg American line was selected as an illustration of a recent card. Artistically the cards are a crime and when good taste and delicacy of feeling are both violated in the selection of the subject of illustration one hopes that the fad may be as short lived as the Christmas card craze. There are artistic possibilities in a good illustration of scenery or notable buildings done in black and white and used as a postal card, but the present work is not a thing of beauty and we trust that its vogue may be short lived.

Statistics are often used as a basis for certain conclusions concerning race, national or local characteristics. It is an amusing and harmless occupation and may be a possible basis for scientific deductions on physical or mental characteristics. The old Scripture belief was "As a man thinks in his heart so is he." The modern philosopher who is a practical physiologist often believes "As a man digests in his internal economy so is he." That conclusion might not be drawn from the following statistics. A certain railroad furnished the patrons of its dining car with a printed slip containing three plans for serving meals. "No. 1" was to be the American table-de-hote plan—three meals per day at a dollar a meal. This old time method caught the suffrages of nearly all the travelers from the Eastern and Middle States. "Plan No. 2" was a combination of European and American plan or the familiar "table-de-hote" and "a-la-carte." Field's simple and comprehensive explanation of the terms as meaning that "in 'a-la-carte' you get a part and in 'table-de-hote' all there is," may have been the factor that influenced the Westerners to favor this plan. "Plan No. 3" was to be European throughout the day and foreigners invariably chose this plan. The company decided to put "Plan No. 2" into operation. Hereafter on that line you may choose what you shall eat at morning and noon and regulate your expenditure as your purse and your appetite may exact. At night you must eat what is given you and pay one dollar for the privilege.

August first was observed as Marquette Day in Michigan. The state has a public park on Mackinac Island and a meeting was held there to consider the formation of an association to procure the necessary funds for a statue of Marquette. This is a move in the right direction. The growing interest shown in our own history is constantly seeking expression in the erection of monuments, tablets, statues and the preservation of historic buildings. This is right, proper and commendable, but at the same time there should be a purpose to teach the truth of history through these memorials. We are an English speaking nation today. Our laws and institutions are English but the exploration and subjugation of the continent was but partly due to Englishmen. The French and the Spanish were the earliest explorers. They have left their names as landmarks in many of our states. These facts in our history should be emphasized for two reasons. They show the truth and they also emphasize the fact that while these nations were the pioneers it was the Anglo-Saxon who conquered at last and made the continent from the Atlantic to the Pacific all his own. The newer states have made scarcely any effort to perpetuate the names of their early explorers. They have kept local names and added others of like origin but few statues or tablets show the Spanish, French, Dutch and Swedish element that were a part of the beginning. Michigan's statue to Father Marquette in the gallery of National Statuary awakened much foolish discussion. The state should be honored for its historical insight in honoring the names of its pioneers.

The great universities and colleges of our country will enroll a larger number of students than ever before in the history of the nation. Universities like Cornell, that furnish many free scholarships, feel most strongly this popular demand for higher education. Cornell gives many free scholarships to the state and this autumn it has nearly one hundred additional students through this avenue alone. Side by side with this great increase in the numbers of those seeking college training is the decreasing value set upon college degrees as degrees. In the immediate past the man or woman who had a college training had a distinction and consideration from that fact alone. This is emphatically a past condition. It does not mean that such training is not highly regarded as training. The members seeking it discountenance that idea. It is only that the means are lost sight of in the end. There has never been a time in the history of the world where strong, well poised individuality was more highly prized or met with quicker recognition. What you are, not how you became so, is the test that the practical spirit of today applies to individuals. The world does not ask to see college degrees or testimonials of scholarships but only ability to do some one thing well. If the education that a man or woman has had fits them to fill some place in the world's economy, then it is a good education whether gained in the college or in the actual struggle. There is no longer any special distinction in how an individual gets ready to work, but there is constantly an opportunity for distinction in his ability to do work. That college training seems to many the most practical preparation for success in life is shown by the great and growing demand for this instruction. That the same result may be obtained without this preparation is no less evident. College from being an end has become an incident, but it has not suffered in the change.

The question "to tip or not to tip" is spasmodically discussed in America and many high moral objections as well as pecuniary ones are made against the practice. In spite of the discussions pro and con the practice has long been on the steady increase. Now it has received the stamp mark of a legitimate expense. The United States government finally allowed a disputed bill to be paid, the item questioned being fifty cents given to the porter of a sleeping car and charged as a legitimate expense. This is giving a legal status to what many consider an unlawful extortion. In Europe the practice is so long established that the person who serves you will ask for the tip if it is not forthcoming. The tips there are very small in comparison with the extravagance of ideas on the topic in America. The small tip in Europe is received with thanks but the chilling supercilious manner in which the sum considered too small is received here must be experienced to be understood. If the practice is to be recognized as a part of legitimate expenditure, then some scale regulating the matter should have the force of unwritten law. It has long been under-

stood that ten per cent. of the total cost of a meal was a fair return of the diner for service. It is the bell boy, the porter, the cabman and the chambermaid whose services furnish a sliding scale of extortion or reward as the victim may choose to consider it. The whole idea is opposed to the supposed simplicity and equality of democracy but the reformers have evidently lost the battle. Some time ago an article was written to prove that a person of moderate means could not afford to accept an invitation to some of the fashionable country houses because, forsooth, his friend's servants expected such large tribute that the sum total made the whistle too dear. Now as the government has recognized "tips" it should compile statistics on a scale of tips or establish a bureau of arbitration between him who gives and him who takes.

TEN WEEKS FOR 10 CENTS.

That big family paper, *The Western Weekly*, of Denver, Colo. (founded 1890) will be sent ten weeks on trial for 10c; clubs of six for \$1. Special offer solely to introduce it. Latest mining news and illustrations of scenery, true stories of love and adventure. Address as above and mention COMFORT; stamps taken.

This offer is, without the least doubt, the greatest value for the least money ever offered by any newspaper in the whole history of journalism.

★ FULL SIZE ★

2½ cts.

★ LARGE TYPE ★

SHEET MUSIC

★ GOOD PAPER ★

★ UNABRIDGED ★

WE have made arrangements with one of the largest music houses of Boston to furnish our readers with ten pieces, full size, complete and unabridged Sheet Music for twenty-five cts. The quality of this sheet music is the very best. The composers' names are household words all over the continent. None but high-priced copyright pieces or the most popular reprints. It is printed on regular sheet-music paper, from new plates made from large, old type—Including colored titles—and is in every way first-class, and worthily of your home—3,000,000 copies sold!

LIST OF PIECES OFFERED AT THIS TIME

- | | |
|---|--|
| No. 105 American Liberty March . . . Cook | No. 236 Across the Bridge . . . LaBran |
| 101 Ancient's Abroad, March—Two Step . . . Cook | 2 Annie's Love. Duet for Sop. and Ten. . . Winter |
| 247 Artist's Life Waltzes . . . Straus | 260 At Noon tide . . . Hill |
| 181 Auld Lang Syne, Variations . . . Durkee | 27 Ave Maria, From Cavalleria Rusticana . . . Mascagni |
| 187 Austrian Song, Op. 69, 1 . . . Fischer | 140 Beacon Light of Home . . . Estabrooke |
| 218 Battle of Waterloo, Descriptive . . . Anderson | 192 Beautiful Moonlight Duet . . . Schumann |
| 179 Beauties of Paradise Waltz, 4 hands . . . Strakosky | 238 Bella di Seville . . . H. Jude |
| 227 Beautiful Blue Danube Waltzes . . . Strauss | 182 Ben Bolt, of "Tribby" fame . . . Kneass |
| 65 Bella di Cornville. Potpourri . . . Elson | 226 Blue Eyes . . . Elson |
| 213 Black Haired Waltzes . . . Walsh | 246 Boyhood Days, Chorus . . . Frits |
| 257 Blue Bells of Scotland, Trans. . . Richards | 220 Bridge of Love. Words by Longfellow . . . Frits |
| 232 Bluebird Echo Potpourri . . . Morrison | 268 Bride Bell . . . Reed |
| 198 Boston Commandery March . . . Carter | 278 Brown Eyed Hattie Lee, Chorus . . . Arbutnot |
| 109 Bridal March from Lohengrin . . . Wagner | 192 Can You Swearheart, Keep a Secret? . . . Estabrooke |
| 229 Bryan and Sewall March . . . Noyes | 214 Childhood's Happy Hours . . . Dinmore |
| 133 Cadences and Scales in all Keys . . . Cerny | 138 Christmas Carol . . . Turner |
| 241 Catherin Waltzes . . . Strohm | 192 Give When the Soft Twilight Falls . . . Schumann |
| 255 Cavalier Rusticana, Four hands . . . Mascagni | 168 Coon's Breach of Promise, Cake walk . . . Blake |
| 237 Cherokee Roses Waltz, 4 hands . . . Behr | 92 Cow Bells, The Boyhood's Recollection . . . Grimes |
| 145 Clayton (Adjutant) March—Two Step . . . Missud | 250 Darling I Shall Miss You . . . Cohen |
| 217 Cleopatra's March . . . Noyes | 176 Darling Nellie Gray . . . Hanby |
| 81 Coming from the Races Galop . . . Deibsen | 244 Do You Remember the Instrument . . . Redgate |
| 269 Coppelia, Valse Lente . . . Strauss | 129 Dear Heart, We're Growing Old . . . Estabrooke |
| 21 Corn Flower Waltzes . . . Coote, Jr. | 128 Don't drink, my Boy, tonight, Temp. . . Hoover |
| 41 Crack Four March . . . Ashton | 256 Dwelling with the Angels, Chorus . . . Turner |
| 71 Crystal Dew Waltz . . . Durkee | 50 Easter Eve, Sacred . . . Gossard |
| 235 Day Dawn Polka . . . Durkee | 220 Ever Sweet in Thy Memory . . . Hoyle |
| 163 Dewey's Grand Triumphant March . . . Marce | 19 "E. Duno" Where "E. E. Come . . . Bates |
| 183 Echoing Trumpets March . . . Noyes | 72 Eulalie, Waltz Song . . . Bates |
| 121 Electric Light Galop . . . Durkee | 180 Far Away . . . Bates |
| 91 Estella, Air de Ballet, Very fine . . . Robinson | 182 Father is Drinking Again, Temperance . . . Bates |
| 107 Ethel Polka . . . Simons | 152 Flag of Our Country, Patriotic . . . Mathiot |
| 155 Evergreen Waltz . . . Simons | 152 Flag of Our Country, Patriotic . . . Mathiot |
| 241 Fantastic Schottische . . . Gabriel | 144 Flirting in the Starlight . . . Delano |
| 231 Faust, Selections . . . Durkee | 6 Flossie, Waltz Song . . . Cohen |
| 77 Fifth Nocturne . . . Leybach | 138 For a Dream's Sake . . . Cohen |
| 233 Flirting in the Starlight, Waltz . . . Laszlo | 66 For You We are Praying at Home . . . Estabrooke |
| 239 Flower Song, Op. 35 . . . Laszlo | 166 From our Home the Loved are Going . . . Frey |
| 97 Fresh Water Potpourri . . . Spindler | 202 Give a Kiss to Me . . . Frey |
| 177 Frolic of the Frogs . . . Watson | 178 God Bless My Kind Old Mother . . . Nech |
| 99 Full of Ginger, March Galop . . . Nutting | 204 Golden Moon . . . Nech |
| 183 Golden Rain, Nocturne . . . Clay | 262 Greeting Duet . . . Mendelssohn |
| 147 Grand Commandery March—Two Step . . . Missud | 150 Gypsy Countess, Duet . . . Glover |
| 53 Greeting of Spring, Op. 21 . . . Richards | 192 Heart of My Mother, Chorus . . . Allen |
| 185 Her Bright Smile Haunts Me Still . . . Jewell | 272 How can I Leave Thee, Duet . . . Green |
| 173 Hobson of the Merrimac Waltzes . . . Slack | 184 I Can't Forget the Happy Past . . . Skelly |
| 139 Home, Sweet Home, Transcription . . . Rosas | 74 In Sweet September . . . Temple |
| 17 Impassioned Dream Waltzes . . . Rosas | 248 In Shadowland . . . Pinetti |
| 153 Jenny Lind Polka, Four hands . . . Muller | 268 In Summer Time . . . Morisland |
| 197 Let's Hope, Metropolitan . . . Gottschalk | 148 In the Starlight, Duet . . . May |
| 23 Leap Year Schottische . . . Kahn | 242 Kathleen Mavourneen . . . Crouch |
| 253 Le Petit Bal, Polka Mazurka . . . Behr | 196 Killarney . . . Balle |
| 159 Lee's (Jen "I") "On to Cuba" galop . . . Durkee | 132 Kiss me, but don't say goodbye . . . Rutledge |
| 249 Lohengrin, Selections . . . Durkee | 186 Kiss me, but don't say goodbye . . . Rutledge |
| 141 London March, Polka Step . . . Roeder | 164 Labaroud Watch, Duet . . . Williams |
| 249 Love's Dreamland Waltzes . . . Roeder | 148 Listen to the Mocking Bird . . . Hachorne |
| 99 Maiden's Prayer, The . . . Badarzewski | 48 Little Boy Blue, Solo or Duet . . . Estabrooke |
| 48 March Winds Galop . . . Mansfield | 154 Little Voices at the Door . . . Danks |
| 240 Martha Selections . . . Johnson | 68 Lost Lord, The . . . Sullivan |
| 207 May Breezes, Four hands . . . Kraus | 234 Margaretta . . . Sullivan |
| 253 May Schottische . . . Keefe | 112 Masses' Sleeping in the Churchyard . . . Keefe |
| 253 McKinley and Hobart March . . . Turner | 230 Memories of my Mother, Chorus . . . Allen |
| 55 Memorial Day March . . . Hewitt | 82 Mother's Cry, A. (Salvation Army) . . . Adrians |
| 131 Monastery Bells, Nocturne . . . Wely | 172 Mother's Welcome at the Door . . . Estabrooke |
| 89 Morning Dew, Op. 18 . . . Smith | 192 Mother's Welcome at the Door . . . Estabrooke |
| 61 Morning Star Waltz . . . Zehn | 148 Mother's Welcome at the Door . . . Estabrooke |
| 257 Music Box, The, Caprice . . . Liebherr | 232 Must the Sweet Tie that binds . . . Estabrooke |
| 27 My Love Polka . . . Ziehner | 76 My Home by the Old Mill . . . O'Halloran |
| 125 My Old Kentucky Home, Variations . . . Cook | 110 My Little Lost Irene . . . Danks |
| 87 National Anthems of Eight Great Nations . . . Blake | 170 My Old Kentucky Home . . . Foster |
| 175 National Songs of America . . . Kullak | 216 Oh, Sing A gain that Gentle Strain . . . Dinmore |
| 135 Nightingale's Trill, Op. 8 . . . Kullak | 228 Oh, Sing A gain that Gentle Strain . . . Dinmore |
| 181 Old Folks at Home, Transcription . . . Blake | 61 Old Glory, National . . . Woods |
| 171 Old Oaken Bucket, The, Variations . . . Durkee | 102 Old Sexton, The . . . Russell |
| 219 On the Wave Waltz . . . Dinmore | 270 Old Village Church . . . Hutton |
| 197 Oregon, Queen of the Sea, Two-step . . . Robinson | 104 On the Banks of the Beautiful River . . . Estabrooke |
| 245 Orvetta, Waltz . . . Spence | 186 On the Banks of the Beautiful River . . . Estabrooke |
| 199 Our Little Loves, Waltz . . . Gregoire | 258 Out on the Deep . . . Lok |
| 79 Over the Waves Waltz . . . Rosas | 160 Outcast, An, Character Song . . . Frits |
| 191 Please Do Waltz . . . Durkee | 174 Parted from our Dear Ones . . . Keller |
| 193 Poet and Peasant Overture (Suppe) . . . Brunner | 254 Picture of My Mother, The . . . Skelly |
| 255 Psyche, Gavotte . . . Hattler | 148 Poor Girl didn't know, Comic . . . Cooke |
| 167 Red, White and Blue Forever, March . . . Blake | 136 Private Tommy Atkins . . . Frits |
| 143 Richmond March—two-step . . . Missud | 138 Requite, Sacred . . . Granger |
| 245 Rustic Waltz . . . Schumann | 208 Rocked in the Cradle of the Deep . . . Knight |
| 127 Rustling Leaves, Idylle . . . Lange | 142 Rosemonde . . . Chamade |
| 39 Ruth, Esther and Marion Schottische . . . Cohen | 80 See Those Living Pictures . . . Guth |
| 149 Salem Witches March—Two-step . . . Missud | 224 Shall I ever see Mother Face Again? . . . Adrians |
| 159 Schubert's Serenade, Transcription . . . List | 192 She Sleeps among the Daisies . . . Dinmore |
| 181 Silvery Waves, Variations . . . Wyman | 124 Softly shine the Stars of Evening . . . Dinmore |
| 169 Smith's (General) March . . . Martin | 210 Son's Return, The . . . Frits |
| 31 Song of the Voyager . . . Padereuski | 120 Storm at Sea, Descriptive . . . Hallah |
| 95 Spirit Lake Waltz . . . Simons | 278 Summer Shower . . . Marisland |
| 259 Spring Flowers, Trill, Op. 8 . . . Weber | 10 Sweetest Song, The . . . Estabrooke |
| 15 Stop, The, Imitation of Nature . . . Weber | 32 Sweet Long Ago, The . . . Estabrooke |
| 73 Storm Mazurka . . . Keefe | 46 That Word was Hope, Waltz Song . . . Nutting |
| 109 Sultan's Band March . . . Brown | 118 There's a Rainbow in the Clouds . . . Delano |
| 209 Sweet Long Ago, Transcription . . . Blake | 208 There's a Sure to be a Way . . . Delano |
| 115 Tornado Galop, March, Op. 182 . . . Arbutnot | 188 The King's Home and Mother . . . Cohen |
| 103 Trifling Echoes, Song without words . . . Jewell | 116 The True Heart, We're Fading . . . Estabrooke |
| 113 Under the Double Eagle March . . . Wagner | 108 Tread softly, the Angels are calling . . . Turner |
| 129 Venetian Waltz . . . Ludovic | 38 True to the Last . . . Adams |
| 205 Village Parade Quickstep . . . Allen | 64 Vear of Bray, The, Old English Song . . . Koppi |
| 7 Visions of Light, Waltz . . . Richards | 252 Warrior Bold . . . Adams |
| 203 Waves of the Ocean March . . . Blake | 58 When the Roses are Blooming Again . . . Skelly |
| 251 Wedding March . . . Mendelssohn | 88 When Winter Days Have Gone . . . Trayans |
| 251 Winsome Grace, A perfect gem . . . Howe | 188 Whistling Wife, The, Comic . . . Randall |
| 119 Woodland Whispers Waltzes . . . Stanley | 212 Why am I ever Watching . . . de Lascalle |
| 108 Zephyr Waltz . . . Bragg | 218 Why do Summer Roses Fade . . . Barker |

DON'T FORGET that the price you pay for this sheet music is only twenty-five cents; that for this you get ten pieces, not one; that it is sent to you address, postpaid; that all the little details are up to the standard, including colored titles; that the vocal pieces have full piano accompaniments; that the instrumental pieces give the bass as well as melody; that this sheet music is equal to any published. Also don't forget to make our selection at once, to send us the order, and to tell your friends about this Sheet Music Offer. Satisfaction guaranteed. Order by Numbers, not Names.

PRICE OF ABOVE PIECES.

Any 10 for 25 cents.
Any 21 for 50 cents.
Any 43 for \$1.00.
Any 100 for \$2.25.

SPECIAL OFFER

To secure new trial subscriptions or extend old subscriptions, if you will send 15c. for 3 months extra subscription, we will send any six of the above pieces free as a premium, and for 25c will send any ten pieces or to any subscriber who will select any twenty-one of the above pieces and send us 50c we will renew their subscription to "Comfort" for one year and give the music delivered absolutely free. You can readily sell ten pieces of the music for 50c and thereby obtain your subscription and the other eleven pieces for nothing. Don't delay, but order today.

Address: "COMFORT Music Room," Augusta, Maine.

PARALYSIS Locomotor Ataxia, cured at last. Doctors puzzled. Specialized. Amazed at recovery of patients thought incurable, by DR. CHASE'S BLOOD AND NERVE FOOD. Write me about your case. Advice and price of cure FREE. DR. CHASE, 224 N. 10th St., PHILADELPHIA, PA.

\$1000.00 SALARY PER YEAR payable each weekly, by old reliable firm. We want experienced Organizers to travel and appeal local organizations. Also 6 State Managers for office work at home. Ladies or Gentlemen. No experience necessary. Send references and address stamped envelope for reply. ROBERT CO., 251 Mason Block, CHICAGO.

A BIG INCOME Can be made GIVING PUBLIC ENTERTAINMENTS in Churches, Halls and Taverns with MOTION PICTURES the new Grapho-Amphibian, MUBICAL and Talking Combinations and Paeanal Stereoscopic Views. 90c to \$1000 PER WEEK. Pleasant employment and pay made on operate them. COMPLETE OUT-FTTS, including large Woodcock tickets, instruction book, business guide, etc., \$25.50 and up. Most interesting and sensational subject. Will be sent C.O.D. subject to examination. Write for catalogue and copies of letters from exhibitors who are MAKING BIG MONEY with our outfit. ENTERTAINMENT SUPPLY CO., Dept. EC 54-55 4th Ave. CHICAGO



THE SQUIRRELS' FROLIC.

FRANK R. GILLIS.

Tempo di Schottische.

PIANO. *mf*

TRIO.

p *mf*

p *f*

mf

Copyright, 189 , by HENRY WHITE, Washington, D. C.

VALUABLE VIOLINS.

In spite of the enormous prices we often have seen in the catalogues of various musical houses and the common stories of fabulous prices which are said to have been given for violins of famous makes, there have been public challenges in the musical world to cite a single authentic case where a violin has been put up at auction and has brought as high as \$5000.

This discussion has led to the publication of very interesting statistics which will claim the attention of all players; but which, unfortunately for the much-believed stories of great sales, show that the challengers knew whereof they wrote. The only case near it is a recent one where a lady wrote to a London paper that a friend of hers had just purchased a Stradivarius built in 1726, at an auction sale in Brussels, bidding and paying therefor \$5000. This would have shown the challenger wrong, but on investigation it was found that the auction was held by M. Darche, the Brussels violin expert, and the instrument was found to have been knocked down at \$3900.

What is perhaps the finest violin in the world—the Messie—was purchased by a man in Edinburgh named Crawford, who is said to have paid nearly \$10,000 for it; but this was not an auction sale. The Stradivarius in the possession of Lady Halle (formerly Mme. Norman Neruda) who some of COMFORT's readers will remember playing in Chicago in 1899, cost her the sum of \$2500. This instrument belonged to Ernest and was given Lady Halle by Lord Dudley and other admirers.

When the Russian violinist, Petschnikoff, played in this country a year ago, he brought two Stradivarius violins with him. One of these, a large model, formerly belonged to the great St. Petersburg player, Ferdinand Lamb, and was presented to Petschnikoff by a Russian princess. Many papers refer to this instrument as the most costly one in existence. When the Spanish player, Sarasate, was in America he carried an insurance of \$15,000 on his instrument.

Stradivarius violins are considered as worth from \$400 to \$4000. In his own time one Cervetto, a salesman in London, received a commission of these violins from the great maker, which he was commissioned to sell at \$20 apiece. But owing to what was considered the exorbitant price the whole lot was shipped back to the maker, who, himself, was accustomed to make violins to order for four louis-d'or each. These and many other interesting facts have been brought out by the challenge, but up to the present time the claim remains really undisputed.

If you want to enjoy a feast of good music for practically the cost of postage write to COMFORT, after reading the music offer on

another page, giving a list of the music you want. You will be so pleased that you will be a constant user of the offer and will thank us for the benefit it will confer on you and your friends.

Music in Early American Churches.

In most of the churches of the early days no music whatever was allowed, and in some even a pitch pipe was considered profanation. This was largely owing to the prejudices which existed against the music in Roman Catholic churches, and which was still used in the service of the Church of England which retained the Catholic form of worship rendered into English. In 1675 a law was enacted that no one should play on any instrument of music except a drum, the trumpet or a Jew's-harp; and as late as in 1735, when one of the splendid organs still in Trinity Church, Providence, R. I., was presented to it by the Dean of Berkeley in England, the people in public meeting voted "that an organ is an instrument of the Devil for the entrapping of men's souls," and declined to accept the benefaction.

Thus the wretched psalm singing of our ancestors went on for 100 years with these meager selections without the aid of instruments or female voices. It was bad enough in the beginning and evidently grew worse. Not a single song was composed, and not a single hymn written in America during the century; but by degrees the situation improved and books giving the rules of music were printed. These rules of music threw the churches into commotion, and at one place it was voted, after a discussion of whether the singing in the church should be by rote or note, "That if we once begin to sing by note, the next thing will be to pray by rote, and then comes Popery." It is pleasing to know that this long warfare over the matter of singing lead to many town meetings, as the churches of the Puritans were then supported by the town, and many peculiar laws were passed for localities. In one, singers were to sing half the time by reading one line, and half the time by reading two lines, and many similar laws were passed; but in time the custom silently went out.

JEAN DE RESZKE'S VOICE.

Considerable interest having been aroused by a recent piece in COMFORT relative to the late misfortunes of the de Reszkes, and particularly as to the voice of Jean, it is somewhat difficult to find the true condition of the great singer's health. Reports are undoubtedly exaggerated but are denied with an emphasis that shows the sensitiveness of his friends while not in any way serving to dispel the clouds of doubt. According to late authoritative London

sources, Jean caught a chill in Paris previous to his visit to the English capital, and this is accountable for his break-down there. It is also stated that the apparent feebleness of his voice is due a great deal to his nervousness and fear of results, and to the fact that for prudential reasons he has of late been taking things very quietly during the first acts of the opera, husbanding his power until the last act. Notwithstanding this explanation there are many printed statements going the rounds of the press which seem to indicate that many people who have listened to him in any of the late performances have serious apprehensions as to the final recovery of his old-time power.

SAVING MONEY IN MUSIC.

It would surprise almost any of COMFORT's six million readers to drop into the mailing rooms some day and see the great loads of papers going to the mails, but what would much more interest the readers of this particular page would be to see the neat piles of sheet music rapidly melting away before the onslaughts of the mailers hastening to fill the pile of daily orders from delighted patrons who have learned what a tremendous bargain is embodied in COMFORT's music offer which is published from month to month and which appears on another page of this paper.

So incredible does it appear, that real full size sheet music such as costs from 25 to 50 cents a sheet at stores can be sent at practically cost of mailing, that at first one is disinclined to put much faith in it. But one trial leads to such satisfaction and delight that order after order is sent and friend after friend joins the happy circle of those who have found a place to obtain the very best music at a trifling cost. Not only that but COMFORT offers to return your money if you are dissatisfied or if there is any misrepresentation. No wonder, then, at the success of the offer. Read it and see its terms for yourself.

One of the late notable pieces for the piano and one that is attracting much attention from advanced musical critics is a descriptive piece for the piano by Victor Vogel, called "Launched in Life," in which the pleasures and pains of domestic married life are supposedly developed. Mendelssohn's "Wedding March" is incorporated and the composition concludes with the sentiment "Home, Sweet Home." The portion relating to the marriage engagement and the presentation of the diamond is set forth in a most skillful manner and is so true to life that young ladies of COMFORT's editorial rooms who have heard it declare it is true to life and almost as sweet as the actual occurrence, which is certainly a great compliment to the composition.

Not all is trouble in the De Reszke family's pathway. Recently at a court performance of

Faust at Windsor Castle the Queen decorated Edward de Reszke with the jewel of the Victoria Order, much to the gratification of that accomplished gentleman.

About a couple of years ago a young Irish child violinist performed in many parts of America with considerable success and great promise for the future. Many of COMFORT's readers will remember little Maude McCarthy, who scarcely seemed large enough to handle the violin she carried. She has recently performed in London with flattering success in one so young, and it is believed that every bright promise for her success will be filled.

Origin of The District of Columbia.

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9.)

Branch and the Conogochague for the permanent seat of the Government of the United States." The new territory was to be ready for use in 1800.

The final adoption of the Potomac site for the National Territory was brought about by a scheme between Jefferson and Hamilton. Hamilton had just devised his great masterpiece of statesmanship—The Funding Bill—which provided for the assumption by the Government of the debts incurred by the States during the Revolutionary War. This bill had been defeated in the House, after a severe struggle, and Hamilton was earnestly trying to have it reconsidered, and had appealed to Jefferson, who was just then working with all the energy of which he was capable, to bring about a decision upon the location of the Federal District, to help him.

Jefferson invited Hamilton to dine with him on the following day, and also asked two or three other friends to be of the party. The matter was talked over quietly, and it was agreed among them that the two Potomac Members who had previously voted against Hamilton's bill should change their vote, and in return Hamilton promised to use his influence to have the Federal District established on the banks of the Potomac.

Thus the wisdom and shrewdness of these two able men settled a serious difficulty in the affairs of the nation, and placed the city of Washington on its present site.

The Territory was finally decided upon in January, 1791, and comprised one hundred square miles lying on both sides of the Potomac, and including the city of Alexandria. One of the original corner-stones of the District still lies at Jones' Point, near Alexandria, but is now hidden from view beneath the steps of the lighthouse since erected there. The land upon the west side of the river, including the city of Alexandria, was retroceded to Virginia by Congress in 1846, and the District now comprises but sixty-four square miles, all lying upon the Maryland bank of the river.



EDITOR'S NOTE. The following rules govern the publication of matter in this department.

Contributors must without exception be regular subscribers to *Comfort*, and every contribution must bear the writer's own name and post-office address in full.

Original letters only, which deal with matters of general interest, will be published. They must be as brief, plain and correct as the writers can make them, and may vary in length from one hundred to four hundred words. Only letters of exceptional merit and interest may reach six hundred and fifty words. Contributors must write on one side of the paper only.

\$10 CASH PRIZES \$10.

The following cash prizes will be paid monthly:

1st.	For the best original letter	\$3.00
2nd.	" second best original letter	2.50
3rd.	" third " " "	2.00
4th.	" fourth " " "	1.50
5th.	" fifth " " "	1.00

Competitors for these monthly cash prizes must comply with all the above rules, and in addition must bring at least one new Cousin into the *Comfort* circle; that is, they must send one new subscriber with each letter, together with 50 cents for a yearly subscription.

These cash prizes will be announced monthly in this department.

No premiums will be given for subscriptions sent in under this Prize Offer.

All communications must be addressed to Aunt Minerva, care of *COMFORT*, Augusta, Maine.

CASH PRIZE WINNERS.

Mrs. Anna Austin,	\$3.00
Elizabeth Wood,	2.50
M. H. Thrasher,	2.00
Louise Snow,	1.50
Cecile Bloomer,	1.00

DEAR NIECES AND NEPHEWS:

Vacation is over, and everywhere we once more view the spectacle of

"the whining schoolboy, with his satchel

And shining morning face, creeping like a snail

Unwillingly to school."

The schoolboy, however, is not the only one among us who undervalues his privileges, and frets and chafes at his daily duties, thinking them irksome and sighing to be rid of them. "Blessings brighten as they take their flight," and too often we discover, when too late, that our despised and grudgingly performed tasks are our greatest blessings, and our hours of toil the happiest part of our lives. The lesson of contentment with our lot, of using each day and hour as if it were to be the last one granted to us, of seeing the pleasant side of every event and duty, is a hard one for most of us to learn. But enough of moralizing. Let us turn to sheep-shearing.

"In this, the central part of Texas, sheep-shearing is done but once in twelve months, usually in May. In some portions of the State, where brush and brambles abound, the sheep are sheared both in spring and early fall, as the sharp thorns and bushes tear out the wool if it is allowed to grow for a full year. Of course under such circumstances wool-growing is not so profitable as in this section, for the shearing expenses are doubled and a six months' clip does not sell as well as one representing a year's growth.

"Shearing machines are little used here and by far the greater part of the work is done by bands of Mexicans. Their leader, or, as they call him, 'the Captain,' makes all contracts and is held responsible for the work done by his entire party. They are very 'nerry' at their work and their tongues seem to run as busily as the large, sharp shears with which they rapidly snip the wool. These shears must be frequently ground and sharpened as the dirt in the wool soon dulls them.



GOING TO PASTURE.

Great care is taken to avoid cutting the sheep and to keep the fleece unbroken, and when the last lock falls it is all carefully rolled together and tied with heavy twine. Both skill and practice are required to tie wool properly. The tags are all thrown in the center and only the white, unsoiled part is left in view. As the fleeces accumulate they are placed in large sacks that are suspended from a frame and arranged to swing clear of the ground. As a sack begins to fill, a man climbs into it and firmly tramps the contents. From its greasy nature, wool packs well and the average weight of these sacks, when hauled to market, is two hundred and twenty-five pounds.

"Ram's wool, black wool and dead wool are sacked together and when sold bring but two-thirds as much per pound as first-class wool. Dead wool, in the wool-growers parlance, means the wool picked from sheep that die from poverty, age or disease.

"Although our great State has within its borders more sheep than any other in the Union, very little of our wool is spun, woven and manufactured here. No doubt some of our New England readers could give us an interesting account of the different forms and processes of labor involved in the changing of 'raw wool' into ready-made clothing."

Mrs. Anna Austin, Atherton, Texas.

Gertrude LaFrenz of Chicago sends us a description of Admiral Dewey's visit to Chicago last May; but as we all read of that in the daily papers at the time I'm afraid I cannot spare room for it now. We thank her, however, for her kind thought for

us. I am afraid she forgot that articles are at least three months old when they finally come out in *Comfort*.

The following letter is from an old subscriber to and reader of our paper.

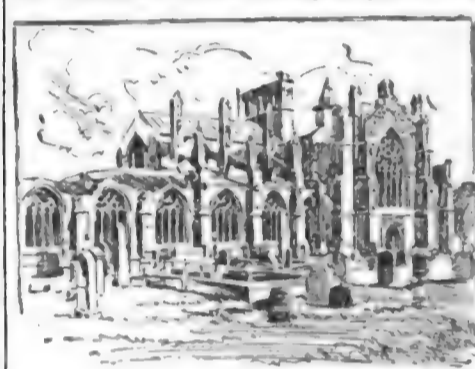
"This story is true. In the foothills of Smith Mountains, San Diego county, Cal., is a large Indian reservation, supported by the Government, which also carries on there a school especially for the education of Indian children. In 1894, when I visited that part of the county on a camping trip, a young, beautiful and talented American woman was teaching. She cooked her meals and lived in a house adjoining the school house, and being at a great distance from an American neighbor, she had one of her nieces with her for company. One evening she had a call from the Indian chief himself. In an ugly way he demanded money of her to buy wine. Alarmed at his behavior she tried to coax him, telling him she had no money in the house but would go to town the next day and get some to lend him, but he insisted upon having money at once. At last she succeeded in getting rid of him for the time, but after she and her ten year old niece had retired for the night some one knocked. The aunt got up, but the child slept on until awakened by fire and smoke in the room. The little maid called her auntie, but receiving no answer she thought she must have fled and forgotten her. So, gathering all her dolls in her arms she ran to the nearest Indian hut, where she was made comfortable until morning, when, to their surprise and horror, the remains of the little school teacher were found in the burned house. The chief was arrested, but other Indians proved him to have been far from there at the hour of the fire, and to this day no one knows who murdered and burned the little school madam."

NOLIA FREEMAN, San Diego, Cal.

Now let us cross the ocean for a time and visit the Scottish Abbey of Melrose.

"If thou would'st view fair Melrose aright, Go visit it by the pale moonlight; For the gay beams of lightsome day Gild, but to flout, the ruins grey."

"We were determined to follow Sir Walter Scott's advice as given in his 'Lay of the Last Minstrel', and so when we arrived at the little village of Melrose, we chose the inn that overlooked the old Abbey. We were much afraid it would prove cloudy and we knew there would be no Johnny Bowler with his two candles as substitute for the moon, so amusingly told of by Washington Irving in describing his visit to this spot. But Nature favored us, for there was a beautiful moon and we stayed up until long



MELROSE ABBEY.

past midnight and looked out upon the ruins of the grand old Abbey.

"Melrose is a wonderful specimen of Gothic architecture, one of the finest in all England. A square tower rises in the center of this church to a height of eighty-four feet. Only the west side of it is standing. Visible from where we stood was a magnificent five-light window richly decorated in the upper part, and in a state of perfect preservation. But the grandest of all is the great east window, thirty-seven feet high. Its tall, slender shaft ornamented with delicate tracery, which Scott has compared to 'willow wreathes turned to stone', stood out clear in the moonlight and made a picture one could not soon forget.

"Melrose Abbey was founded in 1136, and the monks who lived here were the first order in Scotland. Later this monastery was destroyed by fire and was rebuilt at a vast expense by Robert Bruce in 1328. There were at that time of course several buildings, and all was encircled in a wall one mile in circumference. But now all that remains of Melrose Abbey is the chapel.

"The following morning we visited the interior of the chapel. The principal entrance is through a fine Gothic doorway. Within this old church flowers and grass were growing. The sun shone brightly in, for the roof has long ago crumbled away. Architects from Edinburgh and other cities come to Melrose to get inspiration from the wonderful work to be found here. The part above the high altar is singularly beautiful; being covered with finely carved work, while the chancel is richly ornamented with groups of flowers. In the cloister we find the remains of the same beautiful carved flowers, of which one architect claims that the finest botanist in the world could not desire better.

"The graves of many persons distinguished in Scottish history are here at Melrose. But there were two that interested us especially. One was the resting place of the heart of Robert Bruce. As we stood there and placed a bunch of Scotch heather and daisies upon the spot we recalled the story as told in history. How Bruce requested his heart to be carried to the Holy Land and how Douglas started on the pilgrimage, but was killed by the Moors in Spain. Then how the heart was rescued and finally brought back to Scotland and interred in Melrose. The other grave was that of the wizard Michael Scott. A flat, mossy stone, broken across the middle, marks the spot. Here, as told by Scott in the 'Lay of the Last Minstrel', was where Deloraine came at midnight and visited the wizard's grave, and wrenched from his lifeless hand the magic volume that gave the secrets of his witchcraft.

"We left Melrose the next day carrying away with us very vivid recollections of the old Abbey and its surroundings."

ELIZABETH WOOD, Batavia, N. Y.

Our cousin, George Johnson, has sent us an account of the burning in April last of Convention Hall in Kansas City, and a list of the meetings previously held in it, together with a description of the rebuilding which was in progress when he wrote, all of which show much evidence of care and painstaking on his part, but I fear would be an old story to my readers by the time this number of *COMFORT* reaches them.

A pleasant letter from a long-lost cousin, Miss Rosie Strasy, of Iron River, Michigan, lies before me. Welcome back to our band, cousin Rosie. As to the matter of sending a story to *COMFORT*, read the directions given on the first page of the May number.

From Melrose Abbey to a modern tea garden is a long leap, but not at all too much for the mental powers of my readers, and they will find the following letter on the latter subject very interesting.

"The only tea farm in the United States is here at Summerville, S. C., a charming town in the pine woods twenty miles from Charleston. Only it is not called a 'farm', although it comprises a hundred or more acres. That is one queer thing about the raising of tea; the land on which it is grown, no matter how extensive, is always spoken of as a 'tea garden'."

"Dr. Shepard, who owns the garden, began to experiment in raising tea at Summerville over ten

years ago. It was a long, slow business, because he had to try a great many different kinds of seed and soil before he could make the plants grow successfully. Then, too, it takes a plant four years to get so it bears well. Now, however, he has succeeded, and when I first visited the garden he was about finishing picking a crop which, from one small field of less than an acre, had yielded three hundred



TEA-GARDEN SCHOOLHOUSE AND CHILDREN.

pounds of dry tea, worth a dollar a pound. Dr. Shepard makes only black tea. Most people think black and green tea come from different species of the tea plant, but this is not so. The difference comes wholly from different processes of curing the leaf. A tea plant in good condition is from three to four feet high. The top is pruned off frequently so there will be many branches. This is because only the new leaves will make good tea. Just the tip of the branch and the first two leaves are picked. Then the plant will start a new shoot which will grow so it can be picked again in ten days, and this can be kept up for six months of the year. What is better still, a garden once started can be picked for no one knows how long. There are gardens in India and Ceylon which have been picked every year for two hundred years. Dr. Shepard hires negro children to pick for him. Each child wears a trout basket hung about his or her neck and the leaves are dropped through the square hole in the lid. They are paid six cents a pound for picking and make good wages. Dr. Shepard has built a school house on his 'garden' and hires a teacher so that the children can have a good school to go to when they are not at work."

MAX B. THRASHER, Summerville, S. C.

Our last prize letter tells us of a landmark of old Revolutionary times.

"Situated in the eastern portion of North Carolina and county seat of Halifax County, is the little town of Halifax. It is one of the oldest and most renowned towns of the state, and its people, in the days of the Revolution, were most brave and courageous. It also has the reputation of being the first town in the state to celebrate the Declaration of Independence after it was declared in Philadelphia. Here, also, the first Congress was held. In the suburbs, and distant perhaps one hundred yards from the depot, is the old 'Grove House,' once occupied by Mr. William Jones and his wife, both of Revolutionary fame. In the midst of a grove of oak trees it stands an almost ghostly reminder of the dark days when our glorious Union struggled for freedom, and not in vain. As one approaches the house one sees that the once spacious yard is overgrown with weeds. The rotten doorsteps creak as one enters the lofty apartment once known as the reception room, the walls of which are richly adorned with old time fresco work. Beautiful carved wreaths, flowers, angels and dainty cupids all testify to its dead and gone splendor.

"In this house, perhaps in this very room, did Mrs. Jones almost mortally offend Colonel Tarleton. It was just after the Battle of Cowpens, and Cornwallis and his men were quartered in the town of Halifax. Tarleton and his company were quartered with Mr. and Mrs. Jones. Colonel Tarleton was defaming Colonel Washington, saying he 'would like to see Colonel Washington, as he had heard he was very illiterate and scarcely able to write his name.' 'Ah, Colonel,' replied Mrs. Jones, 'you should know better, for you bear proof on your person that he can at least make his mark.' (Colonel Tarleton had been wounded on the finger by a sword in the hands of Colonel Washington at the battle of Cowpens.)

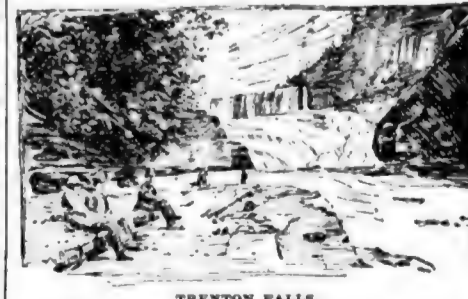
Under these trees did Washington address his little band of brave and daring patriots and incite them to freedom. But alas! the glory of the house has departed and the ruthless hand of decay is upon it. The broken roof, the paneless windows, the hingeless doors all bear proof of neglect and age. So I pass out of the old doorway with many reflections on its departed glory and the noble people who once occupied it."

CECILE BLOOMER, Glenview, N. C.

Here is a very interesting letter on Trenton High Falls and Gorge.

"These falls, formed by the descent of West Canada Creek, on the direct route to the Adirondacks in the Empire state, rank second with Niagara Falls, having no rival in picturesque beauty this side of the Rocky mountains. The creek, rushing along, swollen to a mighty torrent by early spring rains and floods, falls over successive rocky ledges in a chain of charming cascades, between perpendicular walls of solid rock; the constant wear of the stream, through the limestone strata, ever widening and deepening its bed. Twisting through its water-bewn path, the stream—its Indian name Kaayahora, Leaping-water—precipitates itself into a rugged amphitheater, lined with living green; then, gathering itself into mighty strength, it plunges down into an apparently unfathomable abyss, whence, swirling and foaming, it finds an unseen onward outlet.

"The descent to the bed of the stream is by a stairway of one hundred and twenty-seven steps down into the Great Flume, which has walls smooth as masonry, towering one hundred and fifty feet above. Going up stream, over smooth, natural flagstones, through a gray old glen adorned with flowers, mosses and ferns, the Narrows are reached, where the crowded waters rush turbulently along. The hoarse voice of the falls, screened by the great rock forty feet high, seemingly extending across the chasm, is heard before they are seen. Turning a point, however, the first, Sherman Fall, comes to view. Back in distant aeons this fall



TRENTON FALLS.

made a detour, leaping forty feet across the chasm, cutting out a large amphitheater in solid rock; wearing away in the edge of the precipice, through which it pours like an inverted water-spout. Here the walls rise highest; the roar of falling water is loudest; here rises continually the spray, above which trembles in evanescent beauty the fragile, mist-wreathed rainbow.

A stone stairway cut in solid rock, with stout

chain balustrade, gives security to the tourist passing around the gorge under the shelving rocks to the precipice, where the waters plunge with deafening roar.

"Onward a point is rounded, where the Narrows can be seen through the chasm and a vestibule opens to view the High Falls, triple and perpendicular. From the second floor the water, before like cascades of molten gold, bleached from its lovely amber falls in a sheet of alabaster foam, plunging over the third floor in a solid, shining volume. Here is, indeed, a picture in true water-colors, surrounded by its rocky frame embroidered with wild flowers and evergreens. And the falling waters have a rough cadence of mighty melody, in-to which come, to intensify, undertones and breaks of awful silence.

"Beautiful and unique is Alhambra Cascade, its domain entered by a rounded gateway in the walled rock; a column-like rock beyond bearing on its surface a mass of stones and earth, in which trees have found root and tower skyward, a mile farther on Prospect Fall passes over a solid rock one hundred feet wide, the Trenton limestone clearly showing through the veil-like thinness of the water. For three miles an upper path skirts the long chasm through a natural park back to the entrance of the falls. Where the volume of descending water is greatest the perpendicular walls near each other so closely that the sky is hardly visible from the banks of the creek, in the chasm below. Near the shores the water swirls and eddies, while out in mid-stream the falling torrent, ever singing its wild song and dashing its spray, oft changes color reflected from gray rock and evergreen tree.

LOUISE SNOW, Athens, Pa.

Cousin 'Anna' writes:

"I appreciate *Comfort* more and more."

"Laverne Fenn's" letter has been read and Aunt Minerva returns thanks for it.

Alliene Conn sends a bright letter descriptive of her home in Moorefield, West Virginia, but it is crowded out and I can only thank her for it.

"The 'Pinnacle' at Cumberland Gap is a delightful place, and people come from far and near to view its wonders and its beauty. The best way to reach it is to walk from Cumberland Gap to its top. On the way are met stones of various hues and shapes and about half way up the mountain are curious caves. From the top of the Pinnacle one sees a view which stretches away into four states—Kentucky, Tennessee, Virginia and North Carolina. The pinnacle rock is very much like a chimney towering hundreds of feet up into the skies."

HATTIE S. DECKER, Barboursville, Ky.

And now we have played long enough and we must all get up and go to work, so with hearty good wishes for your success in your work and your happiness while doing it I will say good-by.

AUNT MINERVA.

Agents can easily make three dollars a day sure. A chance of a lifetime. See back page of this paper.

SPECIAL SALE.

For this month only, we offer at a reduced price a quantity of elegant cloth bound books by such authors as Browning, Carlyle, Halevy, Bacon, Tennyson, Ruskin, Lamb and Arnold. These books are printed on good paper with clear type, and the best of ink. Are for library, school and home use being the best work of these writers. You cannot afford to be without these books at this unheard of low price. Hardly pays postage as each book weighs 12 ounces or over. If you send now we will send you only 10c. and pay the postage for 32c. by express collect. If not satisfactory money refunded. Address, *COMFORT*, Augusta, Maine.

\$8 Paid For 100 for Distributing Samples of Washings fluid. Send 5c. stamp. A. W. SCOTT, Faber, N.Y.

WE are giving away **Silk** Waists for a little work. Address, **NATIONAL MEDICINE CO.**, New Haven, Conn.

WRITERS WANTED to do copying at home. ART INSTITUTE, Lima, Ohio.

COE'S ECZEMA CURE \$1 at druggists. 25c. size of tin. Coe Chem. Co., Cleveland, O.

ADDRESS The National Supply Co., Detroit, Mich., for their liberal offer to Boys and Girls.

WANTED Good Agents to sell our preparations. Address Bay State Drug & Chemical Co., Boston, Mass.

C. S. A. MONEY Circulars free. Address P. E. Cheney, Box 6, Mutual, O.

10c. Silver. Receipt and directions for Face Treatment, removing wrinkles, etc. T. N. Carroll, Lock Box 18, Winsted, Ct.

\$25 mail course on Magnetic Healing, Hypnotism, &c. Free. Pay after learning. Empire College, St. Louis, Mo.

\$5.00 CASH per 1000 paid to Distribute Circulars. Enclose 4 stamps. World Adv. Ass'n, Chicago.

BELGIAN HARE STANDARD, official hare magazine for beginners, 6 mos. 25c. Kansas City, Mo.

FREE Cloak and suit catalogue. **AMERICAN CLOAK & FUR CO.**, 180 State St., Chicago.

ANGELS WHISPER Beautiful Large Picture colored. Sells quickly at 25c. Sample 12c. 5 for \$1.00. J. Lutz, Omaha, Neb., Chicago.

STAMMERING I make a legal contract to cure Stammering in FIVE DAYS, or get no pay. Free Pamphlet. Gibbon's Stammering School, Room 501, Shukert Bldg., Kansas City, Mo.

A HANDSOME MUSTACHE or face beard grown on the smoothest face in 5 weeks, or money refunded. Baldness cured at once. Our TURKISH HAIR GROWER does it. We warrant every packet. A real success. One hundred, get the genuine direct, 25 cents, 5 for \$2.00, by mail. Address, **THE HONORABLE MAN'FU CO.**, Box 4, BOSTON, MASS.

FREE This beautiful Turquoise or Lovers' Knot Bangle Ring, warranted three years, with initial engraved and a premium absolutely FREE. Send 10 cents to help pay postage. Catalogue free. The Shell Novelty Co., Dept. K, 194 Broadway, N.Y.

FREE **SILVER WATCH FREE!** These Watches are Solid Silver, Ladies' or Gents' size, and at retail would cost upwards of \$10. or \$15. but to introduce our Persian Perfumery we will send you this Watch Free if you take advantage of our generous offer. If you want one CUT THE COUPON and send it without delay. With your letter send us your name & positive address and we will send you on consignment, to sell for 10 cents each, 20 cases of Persian Perfumery (Liquors and Oils) free. After you receive the beautiful Watch we shall expect you to show it to your friends and call their attention to this advertisement. The Watch is sent Free, by mail, and you may keep it as long as you wish with our advertisement, and the marvelous offer which we send, and it is Fully Warranted. You will be more than satisfied. Address at once, **PERSIAN PERFUMERY CO.**, 19 Warren St., New York.

FLYING MACHINES Will come next but at present we offer something entirely new in Balloons. There is nothing quite so fascinating to old or young as watching the airy flight of a Balloon, and a foreign inventor has just gotten a patent for a new idea in paper Balloons. They rise from a table in the house or ascend heavenward in the open air. They excite the greatest curiosity every where they are shown and thousands are daily in Europe. "COMFORT" saw them in "London" and sent a large invoice across the Atlantic so we could be the first to advertise them in America. To first introduce, we are going to give away several thousand as we know we afterwards will make a fortune. We can give you a million of these torpedo Balloons. All we want is to get new three months' trial subscriptions to "COMFORT" and if you send six cents for your own or a friend's subscription we will send you a package of ten Balloons Free Post Paid. You can have three or four in the air at once and derive more sport from them than anything you ever saw. Full directions furnished so children can easily work them and have hours of fun. You make six cents early and get the agency. Don't wait but write and get your friends to write to-day. Address *COMFORT*, Augusta, Maine.

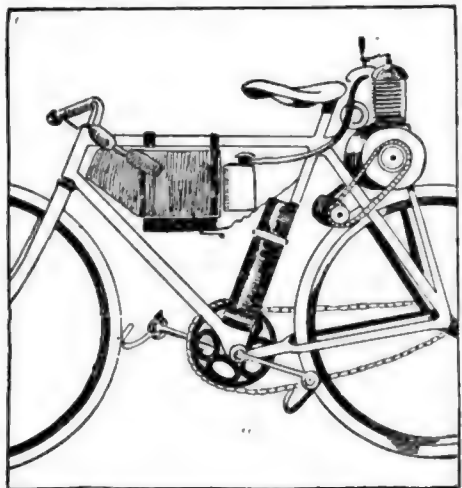


BY EVERETT G. WHEELMAN.

THE unparalleled demand in this country for motor bicycles has found American makers almost wholly unprepared to supply it, with the result that far-seeing and shrewd cycle dealers here have been employing agents in Europe to secure for them the American rights for various makes of the two-wheeled self-propelled vehicles, the manufacturers of which are prepared to begin shipment at once. Among the first Americans to secure the agency for a foreign motor bicycle are the Banker Brothers, of Pittsburg, famous racing men, who are now marketing the Werner motor-cyclette, an illustration of which is here shown. This motor bicycle is manufactured by Werner Bros. of Paris, and resembles an ordinary bicycle in construction, although somewhat heavier, especially the front forks, which are re-enforced to bear the weight of the motor, which is carried in front of the head. The motor is supported on the tops of the front forks and the handle-bar stem, and the entire mechanism turns with the movements of the handle-bar in steering. Attached to the front wheel is a pulley a few inches smaller in diameter than the wheel itself. From this pulley to a much smaller one on the motor shaft runs a belt for transmitting the power. The gasoline tank, spark coil and battery are carried in the frame of the machine and are so compact as to interfere little if any with the rider's legs when he assists the motor up grades or against head winds. The rear wheel is fitted with a coaster brake, and the engine is started in the usual manner by the rider making a few revolutions with the pedals. Once started, the rider may use the pedal as footrests or to assist the motor. The weight of the entire machine is but sixty-five pounds.

The trouble with the introduction of a motor for a bicycle is that the motors made thus far to be attached to a bicycle or tandem are cumbersome, heavy and unsightly. With most of the motors the average wheelman would not care to push the load even on a level road. Electricians are at work trying to devise a scheme for a storage battery with most of the mechanism concealed in the tubing of the frame. One firm believes that it has discovered a method which will prove to be practicable and the claim is made that little additional weight will be added to the machine. The majority of the bicycle makers are progressive men, and while they would welcome any motor which would prove to be practicable when attached to a single wheel, most of them say that the time for the introduction for such an invention has not arrived yet. It is said that the expert mechanics are now at work at some of the factories upon a wheel for next year which may astonish the cycling world. The bicycle is to be a "two-speed" affair, and it will have a coaster brake, a cushion frame and no chain. The "two-speed" arrangement has been tried with varying success and failure for several years, but it never met much popularity. A rod will extend from the handle-bar to the rear hub, so that a slight pressure of the finger will change the gear from, say, ninety used on a level road, to about sixty when a hill or head wind has been encountered. There are many little points of excellence being considered for next season.

A New York city inventor has disposed of his patent rights in the ingenious bicycle motor here shown, to a company formed for the purpose. The main feature of this device is the unique method of transmitting power from the motor to a friction pulley, which is in contact with the rear tire. The motor wheel and the friction wheel are each provided with sprocket wheels, the power being transmitted by means of small chains of the kind usually seen on bicycles, the complete motor and fittings being sold for \$100. The friction wheel is of aluminum bronze, and presses on the sides of the tire, thus avoiding wear on the tread. A coaster brake should be used in connection with this motor, in order to rest or assist the motor at will. The wheel here shown is fitted with a gasoline tank, carrying sufficient fuel for a 75-mile journey. After starting, which is done by the rider setting the regulating lever and giving pedals a



FRICTION MOTOR ATTACHED TO BICYCLE.

few turns, the entire apparatus may be controlled by one lever, located near the handle-bar.

There are few buyers of bicycles who understand that the style of brazing the joints has to do with the general strength of the wheel.

Some of the old riders do, and they are strong in their adherence to some particular style of brazing. The general impression seems to be that of the ordinary styles of connections, one is just about as strong as the other. When makers show something out of the ordinary in reinforcements they claim that theirs is the only strong construction for a bicycle.

Brazing, as about one-half the wheelmen of the country know, is accomplished by covering with brass the inside of one tube and the outside of another, over which an end of the first one fits. Then enough heat is applied to make the tubes red hot. When the heat is withdrawn the joint is firmly made, and the point of connection will stand as much strain as any other part of the tube. It is plain that if the two ends of tubes were merely brought together and fastened at the ends the joints would not be as strong as if the tubes were lapped. This gives rise to the name of lap-brazing, which many people believe to be the only form in which the ends are lapped. This is not so. It is simply the name given to the first form of brazing of this character. Lap-brazing is properly the form used to fasten one tube to another at an angle. One tube is split and the end is drawn around another and brazed in that position. This lapping is the same as an outside reinforcement. Subsequently the name was applied also to the outside joint where the tubes meet end to end. One advantage that this manner of brazing has over others is that the connection is made on the outside of the tube and a wider surface enters into this connection.

The Northwestern Railway of London has just tried a new car, built especially for the transportation of bicycles belonging to passengers. The system adopted is the device of Mr. Boff, a Rugby official of the company, and seems about the best which has yet been put into operation. The van is furnished with two sets of holders or clamps, each of which, easily adjusted to the height and length of the bicycle, holds it immovable. One set is fitted



THE WERNER MOTOR-CYCLETTE.

to one side of the van, and the clamp, grasping the handle-bar, holds the machine upright on the floor apart from its fellows. The other suspends a second row of bicycles from the roof, where the handle-bars are securely hooked to a bar running the whole length of the car, the rear wheel resting on a deeply grooved plate folding down from the side of the wall. When not in use these clamps fold up against the side wall and are out of the way. Each car can accommodate forty-four bicycles as well as other luggage, and each bicycle can be got in at an instant and cannot be jolted out of its place or in any way disturbed by the motion of the train. It is the intention of the company to build twenty similar vans for the summer traffic.

A veteran tourist gives this advice: "I have more than once heard wheelmen explain that when that moment arrives to them which arrives sooner or later to every wheelman—when a brake alone stands between them and death or serious injury to others besides themselves—they can do all the stopping necessary by the application of the sole of the boot to the rear portion of the front tire. I trust no rider will allow himself to follow so inconvenient and dangerous an example. No coasting can be indulged in, no sudden braking is possible, and there exists always the possibility of the foot being jammed in the fork, as happened in the late accident near London, where a wheelman was found lying dead on the road by the side of his mangled, brakeless machine, with one foot fixed in the front fork. Evidently the unhappy man had come to his end by this perilous method of attempting to arrest the progress of his machine."

Some discussion is going on as to the proper position of a woman on a bicycle. For a long time women sat low in the saddle, far back, with the peaks up in the air, and the handles high and awkward. This season there has been a distinct change. The riders now prefer high framed machines and saddles well forward. The position thus effected is more dignified than the old style, but women should be careful not to raise their saddles too high. It is not infrequent at present to see a woman rider just able to touch the pedals at the bottom of the stroke with her toe. This means that she loses considerable pedalling power. The exact distance of the pedal at the bottom of the stroke should be such that the rider can hold the pedal with her heel.

"There goes a rider who knows how to ride a wheel," said an agent whose store overlooks cycling thoroughfare. "You will notice," continued, "that she rides easily and that from the waist up her body does not move. It is maintained always directly over the center line

of her bicycle; that is why the front wheel runs straight and does not swing from side to side as you notice it with so many women riders, and even with a great many men also. Neither does she lunge forward with her shoulders at each pressure of the pedals. What is the result? She maintains a smooth, even, steady gait, and seems to be riding without effort. She is getting all the speed out of the wheel that she is capable of, but if she practiced the objectionable tactics I have mentioned she would not be able to ride so fast or so far. You will also notice how rapidly her feet are moving. It is plain that she is riding a low gear wheel, possibly sixty. Right here lies one of the greatest troubles women riders have. The gears are altogether too high. In the effort to keep up with their stronger brethren women are riding gears anywhere from seventy to eighty-four. Whether through carelessness, or because they think there is a demand for them, most makers are equipping women's wheels with gears above seventy. This practice will eventually do more to injure the bicycle than any amount of talking will undo. As soon as the point where cycling is an easy exercise is passed, harm is being done. When a woman looks ungraceful on a wheel, in nine cases out of ten the fault lies in the gear of her bicycle. In the years when a gear in the neighborhood of sixty was considered high for a woman there were far more women riding wheels than there are to-day. I would advocate the use of a fifty-two gear for a woman who finds difficulty in pushing a higher one. It is foolish to argue that it is not pleasant to make more revolutions of the pedal with less muscular effort."

One of the interesting features at the Paris Exposition will be the bicycle racing, which is set for September 9 to 16, thus giving Americans ample time to get in good condition before they start for the other side. The conditions governing the races will be as follows:

The races are open to professional or amateur racers, possessing the license of the Union Velocipedique de France, or licenses recognized by the Union Velocipedique de France. Entries close August 21.

No entry will be received unless it be accompanied by the entry fees, fixed as follows:

Grand prize of the Exposition, 20 francs.
Premium race, 5 francs.
Handicap, 5 francs.
Tandem race, 5 francs a man.
International race, 5 francs a man.
Criterium of middle distance, 10 francs.
Fifty kilometre race, 10 francs.
Grand race of the nations, 5 francs a man.
Foreigners' prize, 5 francs.
Gold cup race, 50 francs.

All the races except the handicap and the premium race will carry the absolute necessity of starting.

In the following trials, criterium of middle distance, fifty kilometre race and gold cup race, the entered contestants must show to the committee for the race a sufficient number of pacemakers, in default of which the racers entered may be refused.

The entries must contain the name and surname of the racer, his address, his nationality, his colors.

One of the oddest uses to which bicycles have been put this year is mounting a corps of detectives upon them. A bodyguard of six detectives, supposed to be Scotland Yard men, have been following the carriage of Queen Victoria on bicycles to guard her against dynamiters. These riders have been going through this daily task for the past two months. Each day when Her Majesty goes driving the wheelmen fall in behind, and turning when the royal carriage turns, follow it throughout the ride. The secret was out when spectators noticed that the wheelmen followed the mounted police into the guarded grounds of the Vice-Regal Lodge. It is not yet developed whether or not the escort is mounted on wheels made by those "enterprising Americans."

Many riders have a horror of toe clips. They imagine that the foot is held as in a wedge so that it is impossible to dismount quickly. As one who formerly rode without clips, but who for the last three or four years has regularly used them, I can say that this danger is only apparent. One's foot comes away quite easily from a toe clip. On the other hand, the clip is a distinct advantage in that it keeps the foot firm, affording a steady hold. When running at high speed down hill one does not lose the pedal, as sometimes happens when there are no clips.

Some call it lazy to mount a bicycle from the curbstone and rather undignified to hop along the road on one foot, with the other on the step. The best way to mount, in the opinion of experts, is to hold the handle-bars easily, walk along the left side of the machine rather sharply, and then, without stopping, put the left foot on the step and spring into the saddle. A good rider always seizes the moment for doing so when the right pedal is on the upward move, so that his foot catches it at the summit, and he is able to pedal right away.

Two bicyclists passing through a small town on the Long Island shore, decided to take the train from there home. Being unfamiliar with the place, they stopped to inquire of a colored woman the way to the railway station.

"We are strangers," they said, "would you kindly direct us to the station?"

"Certainly, sir," she replied. "Keep a goin' on till yo' comes to de corner wha de ole post-office used ter be, den tu'n to yo' lef' an' yo'll go right to de station."

As they rode off she beamed with pride, they with amusement; and, although they found the station they have yet to discover the "corner wha de ole postoffice used ter be."

I must repeat what I have already said many times, that I cannot possibly undertake to give the addresses of dealers either in this column or privately.

AGENTS GOOD PAY. Largest Line. Best Sell-ers. Finest Goods. All Prices, 5c to \$1. 27 Cooking Stoves, 24 Perfumers, 40 Cigars, Creams, Powders, Inhalers, Remedies, Household, Toilet Goods. Selecting Big Profit and Premiums beside. Express allowed. CREDIT GIVEN. AGENTS TERMS FREE. Harbison Laboratories, Box 54, Station L, New York.

AN ART GIFT FOR THE HOME.

There is nothing about a home as necessary as a duster. This picture shows the new All Wool Duster. Neat and convenient and so soft and clean that the dustiest article may be dusted with it without danger of scratching or scarring. Removes all dust without effort. Every duster may be hung in parlor where they make nice ornaments. Assorted Art Colors with highly finished wood handle firmly secured with Bright Aluminum Ferrule, that never tarnishes or grows dull. Will last for years and always just the handiest thing a woman can have in the house, or a man in the store or office. Make delightful presents for your friends as a gift or souvenir.

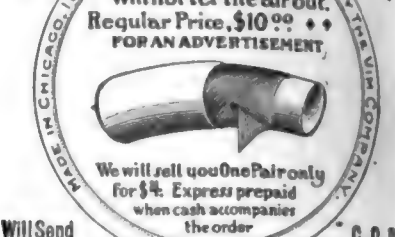
Agents will find them the best selling article in the market. Special terms for those who wish to sell. A GREAT OFFER FOR ALL. We will send one sample All Wool Duster free to any person who will send twelve cents for a trial three months' subscription to our great family paper. The best offer ever made. Address

GOLDEN MOMENTS, Augusta, Maine.

PUNCTURE PROOF SELF-HEALING PNEUMATIC TIRES

MANUFACTURED BY THE VIM COMPANY & GUARANTEED

\$10. SET OF TIRES FOR \$4.
NAILS, TACKS, GLASS.
Will not let the air out.
Regular Price, \$10.00
FOR AN ADVERTISEMENT.



We will sell you one pair only for \$4. Express prepaid when cash accompanies the order.

Will Send and you ought to examine the tires before you advance a cent. If you are in need of tires order at once, giving the size you want, and we will forward at once a pair of the best and most durable tires you ever used. Catalogue sent free. THE VIM COMPANY, Cor. Randolph and Fifth Ave., CHICAGO.

EMPLOYMENT

country, traveling or at home. No gentleman or lady of fair business ability but can succeed in it wherever the English language is used. No investment, no risk. Special inducements now. Address M. Hannaford, 185 Times Bldg., New York.

Brass Band
Instruments, Drums, Uniforms, & Supp. Write for catalogue, 465 Broadway, New York. Illustrations, FREE! It gives information for musicians and new bands. LYON & HEALY, 88 Adams St., CHICAGO.

\$3 A DAY SURE
We will show you how to make \$3 a day; absolutely sure, we furnish the work and teach you free. You work in the locality where you live. Remember we guarantee either \$3 for every day you work absolutely sure. For full particulars see our notice in last page. ROYAL MANUFACTURING CO., Detroit, Mich.

RUPTURE CURED!
WORN NIGHT AND DAY. Patented improvement, comfort, safety. New full illustrated Book telling all about Rupture sent FREE, securely sealed. G. V. HOUSE, M.F.C. CO., 7 Broadway, New York. Please mention COMFORT when you write.

KIDNEY AND BLADDER CURE FREE.

Any sufferer from kidney and bladder diseases, Bright's disease, urethral troubles and any disease of the urinary tract, by sending address to Dr. D. A. Williams, East Hampton, Conn., will receive by mail, absolutely free, Trial Treatment of the one medicine that will permanently cure after everything else has failed.

QUEBEC A \$2500 Watch
In appearance. The handsomest genuine gold plated watch on the market. Solid hunting case. SOLID GOLD PATTERN—graving. Elegantly finished jeweled movement, stem wound and set and absolutely guaranteed for 5 YEARS. Cut this out and send it to us with your name and address and we will send the watch to you for examination; you examine it at the express office and if as represented pay express agent our special introductory price \$2.50 and it is yours. Only one watch to each customer at this price. Mention in your letter whether you want GENT'S OR LADY'S SIZE and order today as we will send out samples at this reduced price for 60 days only. H. E. CHALMERS & CO., 538-B Broadway, New York. Please mention COMFORT when you write.

BE LUCKY!
When the early princes of Egypt were engaged in any undertaking or in search of Good Luck, Good Health, Success or Wealth, they brought the Priests of Isis to give them a Lucky Isis Stone, and history shows that these coveted talismans never failed to bring them good fortune. 1700 LUCKY ISIS GEMS Free TO BE GIVEN AWAY... Free. In order to let the American people share in our fortunate purchase of the famous Lucky Isis Stones, we propose to give away, absolutely free, 1700 of these sparkling gems mounted in handsome rings. Tradition forbids our selling the stones, so we charge merely for the cost of mounting, which is \$1.00, in solid gold Tiffany settings; 600 in rolled plate, warranted, and we give you this gem absolutely free. Send at once before they are all gone and secure one of these historic stones. All Isis stones are mounted exclusively by the Isis Jewelry Co., Dept. A, 194 Broadway, N. Y.

FREE. NON-EXPLOSIVE NIGHT LAMP.

We will send you one of these Lamps with Nickel base, fine handsome pleated shade, chimney etc., all complete if you send us 10 cents for a six months' trial subscription to our great monthly "SUNSHINE" either in your own or a friend's name. We want \$5 to be the banner year for our list and offer this great premium as an inducement for you to take our paper right along. You can make money offering the New Lamp and Exquisite Perfumery with new subscribers. Send 10c at once and we send sample combined Bottle Perfume and this Ornamental and Petite Lamp. Two lands and subscriptions and two lots of Perfumery for \$5. order quick and get great terms and low cash discounts in big lots. Address SUNSHINE, Augusta, Me.



Julia Ward Howe Tells How She Wrote the "Battle Hymn of the Republic."

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



MRS. JULIA WARD Howe was eighty-two years old, May 27, 1900. She is just three days younger than Queen Victoria, who was eighty-two the twenty-fourth day of the same month.

Few women of half the age begin to accomplish the work which Mrs. Howe has done at eighty. Her long life has been lived in the very thickest of the affairs which have made history during her time. The wide knowledge of men and things which this experience has given her, coupled with the discerning judgment which she has always displayed, makes her advice and counsel sought by those who are interested in public and philanthropic work, while her personal charm of manner makes her no less sought for the pleasure which is to be derived from her society. As a result there is hardly a day in the year when she is not asked to address some club, preside at some gathering or advise some one as to the best way of carrying out some task which has been undertaken.

How well she does all these things one has only to see her to know. Her step may be a little slower, her hair a bit more gray, with each year, but if this be so the sweet dignity of added age charms away any appreciation of the fact.

I do not mean by this that Mrs. Howe does not fully realize her years. She does; and refers to them openly, often with such delightful humor that it is plain age has no threats for her. Not long ago, when she was speaking at a meeting of women in All Souls' Unitarian Church, in New York City, Mrs. Howe's voice grew tired, so that she was not able to make those in the back part of the building hear her plainly. Some one sitting there asked, "Can Mrs. Howe raise her voice?"

"No," replied Mrs. Howe, frankly, adding, "I said yesterday that I should not kill myself, even for this august body. You can't expect an old lady of eighty to explode in one gigantic effort."

There was a general laugh at this calm statement of the situation, and then the women in the back part of the room, young and old, elegantly dressed, went forward and sat down flat on the floor in the aisles and around the platform, the only unoccupied space, that they might be where they could hear the rest of the address.

About the same time Mrs. Howe presided at a meeting of the Authors' Club, of Boston. When she rose to speak, to introduce Colonel Wentworth Higginson, who was to deliver an address, she said: "I don't know why I should occupy the position I hold, except that every

well-regulated family has an old grandmother who often has the best chair. She is not expected to say much, for she does not speak the same language."

A little later she said: "I cannot help remembering when it was said, 'Who ever reads an American book?' Now it may well be asked, 'Who does not read a good American book, as often as it can be published?'"

No doubt Mrs. Howe is best known to the Nation in general as the author of the "Battle Hymn of the Republic." There are few who cannot repeat some or part of that lyric which begins,

"Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord."

There is a martial swing to the hymn which, let it once be heard, makes it cling in the mind and heart as does the melody to which its lines are oftenest sung.

I have heard Mrs. Howe recite the Battle Hymn more than once, and often amid very striking surroundings, as once in the Old South Church, in Boston, but I find that one special occasion is going to remain fixed in my mind, both for the sake of the associations connected with it, and because Mrs. Howe at that time told her audience how she came to write the hymn.

On the nineteenth of April, of every year, there is a service at Concord, Massachusetts, to commemorate the Concord Fight, that inaugural Revolutionary battle to which Paul Revere's wild night ride through the Middlesex farms roused the settlers. A few years ago I attended that service. One feature of the celebration that year was a great meeting of children and young people, whom Mrs. Howe was to address. This meeting was held in the historic old First Church of Concord, the same building in which Revolutionary meetings have been held, and in which Revolutionary orators have shouted defiance.

The First Church is one of those bare white "meeting houses," of the style of those early days, a style which has a dignity all its own, impressive in its very simplicity. The pulpit is large and high. On this occasion an enormous American flag had been hung over the pulpit, and when Mrs. Howe came out on the low platform to speak, her whole body was outlined against this flag as a background. Those who had the meeting in charge had shown their good taste by leaving the simple beauty of the church unadorned except by this one flag and by two great jars of magnificent Easter lilies, placed one at each end of the platform. Any one who has seen Mrs. Howe can imagine what a beautiful picture she made as she stood there between the lilies, in front of the flag, especially when, in reciting the poem, she came to the lines,

"In the beauty of the lilies Christ was born across the sea,
With a glory in his bosom that transfigures you and me;
As He died to make men holy, let us die to make men free,
While God is marching on."

Her story of the writing of the Battle Hymn, so nearly as I can tell it in her own words, was this:

"When the War of the Rebellion began it was a very great sorrow to me that I could not do something for my country. Other women whom I knew had sent those whom they loved, to fight, or perhaps had even gone themselves, as nurses. For me, though, the way seemed

closed. My husband at that time was in too infirm health to go as a soldier and my children were not only too young to go themselves but so young that I could not leave them, even if there had been a way opened for me to go. I felt it was a great hardship.

"After the war had been in progress for some time I went to Washington in company with my husband and my pastor, Rev. James Freeman Clarke. We were to transact some business in connection with one of the committees organized to help the cause. While there we drove out one day some distance from the city to see a great review of troops which had been planned. There was a very large force of soldiers encamped about Washington then—many thousand men—for the enemy were reported to be close at hand. While this review was in progress there came a sudden alarm, a rumor of a skirmish not far away, and great confusion was the result. The review was given up, and the troops poured back towards the city. The road was so full of men that our carriage could drive only very slowly. All around us, in front, behind, and spreading out on both sides into the fields, were the men. There was uneasiness and concern everywhere. Finally some one in our carriage began to sing 'John Brown's Body.' Some of the men who were nearest caught up the song, and then others, until soon there was a great volume of song. It cheered and reassured us.

"After we had stopped singing Dr. Clarke said to me, 'Why do you not write some new words for that music, Mrs. Howe? Such a noble melody as that deserves them.'

"I said that I had thought that myself, and had tried to write something which would fit the music, but had never been able to produce anything which seemed to me worthy of it. The matter was not discussed afterwards and I forgot all about it before we got back to the city.

"The next morning I woke suddenly from a sound sleep, long before my usual hour for waking. There was only the very faintest trace of daylight. I could not see that anything had awakened me. As I lay there in bed the first lines of a hymn came into my mind, the lines beginning,—

"Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord."

"Other words followed. I rose and throwing a wrap around me, found pencil and paper, and there in the early dawn, in light so faint I could hardly distinguish the lines I traced, wrote out the whole of the hymn. It was all done in a few minutes. One line came to me as soon as the preceding one was written. When the last was written I went back to bed again, went fast asleep and slept until my usual time to rise.

"The hymn became popular at once, and soon came to be spoken of as a great help to the cause which I loved. The lesson which I learned from it was that if one really wants to do something for some one else, for humanity, for country, for God, God himself will open an opportunity in His own time and way. Just have the disposition and the chance will come."

The most renowned natural bridges in the world are in the Western Continent. Two in South America; between Bogota and Quito; one in Virginia, called the "Natural Bridge of Virginia," over Cedar Creek; one in Kentucky, in Carter County, and one in Alabama.

A SHEEP PEST.



SHEEP raisers in New Zealand find that their flocks are greatly annoyed by a bird called the kea, or mountain parrot. This bird attacks the sheep and with its strong sharp beak pecks through the poor animal's hide to get at the fat under the skin. How this habit started with the birds is uncertain and various explanations have been offered, among them one quite interesting and plausible.

In the hilly district of New Zealand grows a kind of lichen which resembles a bunch of wool, and at the roots of which are found grubs which are the favorite food of the kea. Probably the birds were misled by the resemblance at first, and finding the sheep good feeding ground have developed the new habit.

The largest known cave in the world is Mammoth Cave of Kentucky. It is about one hundred and thirty miles from Louisville, in Edmonson county. It was purchased by Col. Crogan, of Louisville, about seventy-two years ago, for \$10,000, and so celebrated did it soon become that he was offered, a short time after, ten times as much. But he was not willing to sell it, and he so arranged it in his will that it must remain in his family for two hundred years. It has been explored for fifteen miles or more in various directions, and it is a resort for sight-seers from all parts of the world.

\$2.00 a day sure. Without doubt a great opportunity. For particulars see last page of this paper.

A POCKET LUXURY

Is a tortoise shell comb in a neat and fancy case, always handy and useful; good for men, women, school children and the soldiers. We will send one with our great catalogue of thousands of bargains for only six cents. Address, Comfort, Augusta, Maine.

\$5.00 SHAVING SET FREE



For selling only six of our Electric Porous Plasters. We want to prove there is a sure prevention and cure for Lame Back, La Grippe, Croup, Whooping Cough, Colds, Pneumonia, Rheumatism, etc., etc., and will send you six of our 2c Plasters which you are to sell and return the money (\$1.20) to us and we will send you all charges paid, the rest is profit.

Shaving Set packed in a case eight inches long, six inches wide and five inches high. The combination consists of 1 Royal Steel Swivel Razor, single value, \$3.00; 1 Genuine, Horseshoe, Double, Reversible, Safety-Razor, Nickel-plated, Blended handle, Ivory Strip, value \$1.00; 1 Real China Shaving Mug; 1 Cake Star Shaving Soap; 1 Best Bristle, large handle Lather Brush; 1 Cake Perfumed Lump Magnesia; 1 Stick rich perfumed Cosmetic, making a grand \$3.00 combination. Every man should have an outfit in his house for emergency's use. Every woman should see to it that either her Father, her Husband, her Brother or her Sweetheart has one of these outfits. They make the best presents one can give to a gentleman.

Don't wait but send to-day for Plasters. One agent sold the six in six minutes. Address THE G. O. PLASTER CO., Box 1229, Augusta, Maine.

\$12⁷⁵ EDGEMERE

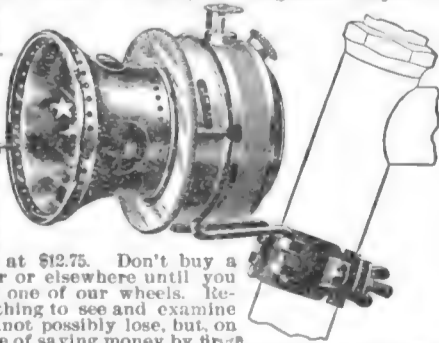
SEND NO MONEY

No. 44K
Order By Number.

This illustration, engraved from a photograph, shows the new 1900 model, flush joint, HIGH GRADE EDGEMERE BICYCLE. This bicycle will be exactly as shown in illustration with the exception of the sprocket, which come in a variety of patterns, and the handle bars, which are furnished either up or down turned, as desired.

...\$2.00 ACETYLENE GAS LAMP FREE...

This regular \$2.00 Acetylene Gas Lamp will be sent free with every Edgemere Bicycle at \$12.75. Order our high grade Edgemere Bicycle at \$12.75 on our liberal no deposit, C. O. D. terms, and we will send with the bicycle (no charge) this handsome nickel plated lamp, which we furnish in a variety of the latest 1900 style patterns. It makes its own gas, gives a very powerful light, is very economical, one of the best bicycle lamps made, such a lamp as retails everywhere at \$2.00 to \$2.50, and you get the lamp for nothing with every Edgemere Bicycle at \$12.75. Don't buy a bicycle from your dealer or elsewhere until you have seen and examined one of our wheels. Remember, it costs you nothing to see and examine the Edgemere. You cannot possibly lose, but, on the contrary, you are sure of saving money by first seeing and examining our wheels before buying elsewhere. If you don't find our wheels better in quality and lower in price we won't expect you to take the bicycle, but you can return it at our expense.



(Sears, Roebuck & Co. are thoroughly reliable.—Editor.)

\$12.75 FOR A STRICTLY HIGH GRADE

up-to-date new model bicycle, with all the very latest features, including flush joints throughout, two-piece hanger, all the latest improvements, all the good points of all other high grade wheels. IS A PRICE HERETOFORE UNKNOWN, and when you get the bicycle and the high grade gas lamp (a lamp which you would pay your dealer at least \$2.00 for) at \$12.75, you should not fail to get your order in at once. Remember our \$12.75 price is guaranteed only until our present stock is exhausted.

OUR CHALLENGE OFFER

ORDER THIS OUR NEW 1900 MODEL EDGEMERE AT \$12.75 AND YOU CAN THEN ORDER A BICYCLE from any other house or houses advertised in this or any other paper, let the different bicycles come to your nearest railroad station to be examined, examine and compare them side by side, and if our bicycle is not pronounced by everyone at least \$15.00 cheaper in price and \$20.00 better in quality, you can return it to us at our expense.

OUR BINDING GUARANTEE. With every Edgemere Bicycle we issue a written binding one-year guarantee (which accompanies every wheel) by the terms and conditions of which if any piece or part gives out within one year by reason of defect in material or workmanship, we will replace or repair it free of charge. With the tires we issue the Association's strongest 60 days' guarantee.

THE EDGEMERE BICYCLES

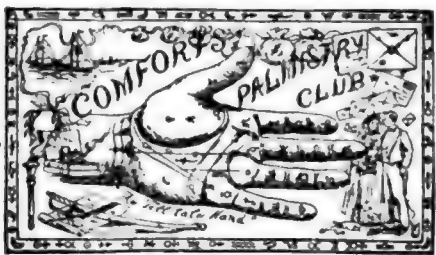
are made by one of the best bicycle makers in America. They are the equal of bicycles that sell everywhere at \$35.00 to \$50.00; they are made from the best material that money can buy, made on the very latest lines, new models for 1900. They embody every new and up-to-date feature of every other high grade bicycle made, with the defects of none. They have the latest high grade Denton hanger, they are flush at every joint, 22 or 24-inch frame, made from 1 1/2-

inch cold drawn seamless tubing. The connections are all the finest steel forgings and stampings, handsomely finished; very latest arch crown, handsomely curved, shaped and finished; handsome tapering fork. They have the very latest diamond frame in the gent's style, a handsome drop curved frame in the ladies. The wheels are the highest grade 28-inch, fitted with genuine Hercules spokes, full finished; the very best air-seasoned rock elm rims are used; fine large size tubular hubs, made from bar steel, heavily nickel plated; cranks made from the finest forgings; bearings from tool steel hardened in oil, accurately trued to gauge; sprockets are made from selected forgings, heavily nickel plated, and they come in a variety of handsome patterns.

WE FURNISH WITH THE EDGEMERE BICYCLE

at our \$12.75 price, our own special high grade, season guaranteed, Seroco single tube pneumatic tires, a pair of the highest grade tires made, complete with tire repair outfit. The bicycle is fully equipped with a high grade chain, high grade ball-bearing adjustable pedals, full padded saddle, up or down turned handle bars, as desired; tool bag, pump, wrench, oiler and tire repair kit. The bicycles are beautifully finished, handsomely decorated and ornamented. They come regularly in plain and solid black, highly enameled, which makes by far the richest appearing wheel. We also furnish them in green and maroon with striped line ornamentations, when so desired. All usual parts are heavily nickel plated on copper.

800 TO GO AT \$12.75. We have bought every Edgemere Bicycle the factory had, between 800 and 900. We bought them at less than the cost to build, and until the last wheel is gone we will never again have an opportunity to get a strictly high grade wheel, such as the Edgemere, at anything like our present special close out offer price of \$12.75. ORDER TODAY. DON'T DELAY. REMEMBER, \$12.75 ONLY UNTIL THE LAST HIGH GRADE EDGEMERE BICYCLE IS SOLD. Address, **SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO. (Inc.), CHICAGO, ILLINOIS.**



CONDUCTED BY DIGITUS.

CONDITIONS.

To have one's hands read in this department, by Digitus, one of the finest living palmists, it is necessary to observe the following conditions:

Impressions of both hands must be sent, fully postpaid and having the name, address and name de plume of the sender enclosed in the package also.

The package must in every instance be accompanied by the names and addresses of eight new subscribers at twenty-five cents each, the whole amount, \$2.00 being remitted, with the package, addressed to COMFORT PALMISTRY CLUB, Augusta, Maine.

No notice will be taken of impressions and requests for readings unless the sender has fully complied with the above conditions.

To take impressions, first hold two large pieces of blank paper over a candle or similar flame, until they are heavily coated with the smoke. Then lay these pieces down, smoke side uppermost on a pad of cotton. Now place the two hands, palms downward, one on each sheet of paper, pressing firmly and steadily down, but taking care not to move the hand. Keep them so for one minute and lift carefully, so as not to disturb the impression. Have ready some flat, which can be bought at a drug store or an art store or made with gum arabic and water in an atomizer. Spray this over the impressions before they are moved and allow them to dry. Then they are ready to send.

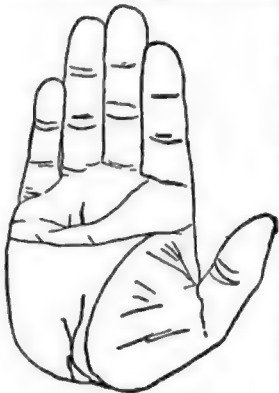
Smoked paper impressions are the best. But if it is desired to send a plaster cast, take plaster of Paris and dissolve in water to the consistency of thick cream. Pour this into a large shallow dish and when it is hardening place the hand, well-greased, palm downward, in the plaster, pressing downward. Several minutes will be required to get this impression and great care must be taken in removing the hand, not to break the plaster. Casts are exceedingly difficult to send without breaking. A should be very carefully packed in a box with the name of the sender written on it. Putty is sometimes successfully used in place of plaster. A good photograph if sufficiently well taken to bring out all the lines, can also be sent, although in all cases the smoked paper is the best, if properly treated with flat.

Bear in Mind that all the above conditions must be observed.

Also, that letters not complying with them will go into the waste-basket. Readings cannot appear for several months after impressions are sent.

It may be well to state at the beginning for the benefit of others as well as for that of "W. H. S., Jr.," that when a back number of COMFORT is wanted for the purpose of seeing your life readings or any other reason, any number may be had by applying to the publishers at Augusta. We editors of departments do not keep a lot of back numbers by us, but the publishers will be glad to supply any number that is wanted on the receipt of five cents.

The first hand which I shall read this month belongs to "Tullas John." He has a good strong hand showing a long life and good health after he comes to be fifteen or so. The life line is uncommonly long and he will live to be well on towards a hundred. He has not had the courage of his convictions always and he is always a little afraid to start out with new ideas. He prefers being guided by others



TULLAS JOHN.

for him, but I think he will outlive his wife. He has not a very affectionate nature, although he is faithful and true to those whom he loves, or to members of his own family. He is somewhat self-willed and opinionated, evidently not willing to give in to the ideas and wishes of others as much as he might be. He will never be very rich, but will always have a competency. On the whole, his is a good hand, although there are no startling experiences of any sort and he is destined to a rather uneventful life.

The hand of "A.C.B." is very different, showing a nervous, sensitive disposition, a very ambitious nature and one that will be successful in whatever she undertakes. Her life line is long, too, but there will be some delicacy of health and during childhood a great deal of trouble with headaches or some weakness of the brain. There will be a break-up of the health at about fifty, but I think the subject will live on a great many years after that and perhaps see the best of her life then. A line running from the inside of the life line, or the edge of the Mount of Venus straight up onto the Mount of Jupiter indicates a very strong ambition and the square with which it ends shows that there will be a protection from the evil effects of such an ambition. The fate line is very strong and very successful. A person with such a fate line as she has in her right hand could scarcely fail of success. She has the endorsement or the help of some woman early in life, but after that depends more upon her own resources and will marry between the ages of twenty-five and thirty. She will gain wealth and distinction, especially after she is thirty-five years old and she has great gifts for the platform. If she were to go on the stage or even on the political platform, she would make a great success. She will travel a great deal and her life will be broken up by a constant succession



A. C. B.

of events. There will be no dullness or lack of variety in her life, nor is there in her character. On the whole, hers is a very fortunate and very interesting hand. She is very attractive to the opposite sex and will always have plenty of admirers. She is very faithful in her affections, however, high minded and trustworthy. She is poetic in temperament, loves art and good literature and will make a good musician.

In sending hands for reading this winter, please be careful to follow the directions given above.

I am going to give you a few rules for observing the head line:

In its best aspects it should leave the line of life at its immediate commencement and make a strong ray across the hand to the top of the Mount of the Moon without ramifications or branches. Such a formation gives us good sense, strong will power, clear judgment and cleverness. If it is too short, it shows either a weak will or an early death. If it is chained and branched, it gives a weak uncertain mind and if it is unequal in thickness it gives avarice and a want of spirit. If it is long and straight across the hand covering the entire hand it also denotes avarice and parsimony. A long line of head gives domination to the character and self reliance. If a hand is much lined and covered with fine rays which indicate nervous and excitable temperament, a long head line with it, such as in the hand of "A. C. B." for instance, gives great self control and coolness in difficulties.

If the head line remains joined to the life line way out under the Mount of Saturn, it shows that education and brain development came late in life. A sudden death is foreshadowed by a short head line when the life line is short also. The head line must lie at a good regular distance from the heart line throughout the length. It is not a good sign to have the space between the head and heart lines narrow at one end and wide at the other.

At the same time an extremely good head line will over-rule bad signs in the hand, especially if the Mount of Mars is high. The combination of the Mount of Mars high and a good head line, gives energy, coolness, a power of resistance, circumspection and constancy that will equip a man for his battle with life. It is a bad sign for the head line to stop under the Mount of Saturn, or even under the third finger, as that indicates inconstancy and a disordered mind. When it is joined to the life line too long before leaving it to go across the hand, it shows a lack of confidence in one's self.

When the head line turns under the finger of Saturn and runs way down towards the wrist it is a pretty sure sign of suicide. This sign, however, should not be confounded with the one which sometimes traces an oblique course to a point part way down on the Mount of the Moon, which indicates imagination and idealism with a romantic tendency towards mysticism and even folly. If this line drooping down the Mount of the Moon in that way cuts the line of health in both hands, it indicates a tendency to insanity, but in an otherwise strong hand the head line drooping onto the Mount of the Moon gives a love of the occult and the superstitious and in many instances a talent for literature.

The line of head coming low upon the Mount of the Moon to a star, if accompanied by a weak heart line and corresponding stars on the Mount of Venus and Saturn indicate hereditary insanity.

A break in the line of head, nearly always indicates an injury to the head and especially so if it is under the finger of Saturn with the broken ends overlapping. If the line is much broken up it is a sign of headaches and general weaknesses, such as loss of memory and a lack of quick ideas. If it is split throughout its length with the other indications of madness or insanity, it is unfortunate, but if instead of being split it is accompanied by a second line thus making a double head line—it is a sign of good fortune and inheritances. If the head line is forked at the end with one branch descending onto the Mount of the Moon it is a sure indication of a deceitful, lying nature. A cross in the middle of the line foreshadows near approaching death and if the line is cut by a multitude of little lines, there will be many illnesses and headaches. Red points on the line indicate wounds, white ones, inventions or discoveries and black ones illnesses of some kind. A star upon this line is generally a sign of a very bad wound bringing danger or folly with it.

If a line from a spot in the head line connects with a star on the Mount of Venus, a serious disappointment in love is indicated. If a line from the head line ends in a star on the finger of Jupiter, it is a sign of extremely good luck.

Digitus

BICYCLE SURVEYS.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



A NEW way in which the bicycle may be utilized is reported to have been recently discovered. By means of a simple recording attachment to the machine, a rapid topographical survey of a piece of road may be made, and with no more exertion required on the part of the surveyer than simply wheeling over it.

The recording device consists of two parts: a cylinder revolving mechanism that carries a roll of paper, and a device that makes the record on the paper. The cylinder is a horizontal shaft, turned by a belt attached to the crank axle of the bicycle.

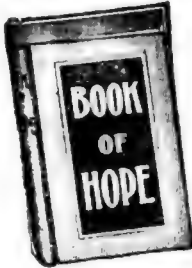
As the cylinder turns the strip of paper is unwound from a spool. The marking device hangs from a pivot, and adjusts itself to the position of the bicycle. As the bicycle goes down hill the marker moves further toward the edge of the paper; as it goes up hill the marker travels over the paper in the opposite direction. Along level ground the marker simply makes a straight line.

The paper used is ruled with parallel lines, and the gears of the pulley that run the paper cylinder are so arranged that the distance ridden can be computed by the amount of paper unrolled. The vertical distance of the marks is also accurately gauged. In the machine de-

FREEDOM FROM DISEASE AND DESPAIR

PROF. H. C. MURPHY, originator of

"MODERN MAGNETISM"



ber, this costs you nothing, simply send your name and address, and you will receive this grand book, as well as the "Magnetic Record," a 32-page magazine, beautifully illustrated, absolutely free to all addressing THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE, Nevada, Mo.

Please mention COMFORT when you write.

and President of the American Institute of Science, has prepared a course whereby the ambitious can gain **WEALTH, POWER, POSITION** and **HEALTH**. Although this wonderful power has an origin that seems to come from the mysterious deep, it is easily mastered through the plainly written course by Prof. Murphy. You can **LEARN AT HOME**. The only education necessary, the knowledge to read. Through the knowledge you gain you are able, without the aid of drugs or the surgeon's knife, not only to

disease, but those about you as well. "Book of Hope," the true key to the grandest profession of the age, and the only true science whereby you can **HEAL YOURSELF** of all disease, **ABSOLUTELY FREE**.

Remember, this costs you nothing, simply send your name and address, and you will receive this grand book, as well as the "Magnetic Record," a 32-page magazine, beautifully illustrated, absolutely free to all addressing THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE, Nevada, Mo. Please mention COMFORT when you write.

CURE YOURSELF

THE HAIR TELLS ALL

If Sick send a lock of your hair, name, age, sex and 4cts. in stamps and I will diagnose your case FREE and tell you what will cure your ailments. Address Dr. J. C. Batdorf, Dept. 15, Grand Rapids, Mich.

LADIES I Make Big Wages

and will gladly tell you all about my work. It's very pleasant and will easily pay \$15 weekly. This is no deception. I want no money and will gladly send full particulars to all sending 5c stamp. R.B.S. A. H. WIGGLES, Box 4, Seattle Harbor, Wash.

WANTED MAN

with horse and buggy to sell Pasture Stock Food. Salary, \$15 per week and 10 per cent. on all sales. Farmer preferred. Previous experience not essential. Pasture Stock Food is the greatest discovery ever made in practical and scientific feeding, and is sold on an absolute guarantee. Steady, permanent trade easily established. Sample bag sufficient for two weeks' feeding, free. Send 25 cents in stamps or silver to cover express charges. PASTURE STOCK FOOD COMPANY, 317 Times Bldg., Chicago.

RIPANS

A Ripans Tabule after meals,

The fate of indigestion seals;

So if you would dyspepsia shun,

When you have eaten,—swallow one!

WANTED.—A case of bad health that R-I-P-A-N-S will not benefit. They banish pain and prolong life. One gives relief. 10 for 5 cents at drug stores. Ten samples and one thousand testimonials mailed to any address for 5 cents, forwarded to the Ripans Chemical Co., No. 11 Spruce St., New York.

KICK! KICK!

GET INTO THE GAME!



Football playing leads the van for real live sport, we have just secured a thousand of the very best make, genuine large size rubber canvas Foot Balls, they are twenty-seven inches in circumference and made in the strongest and most thorough manner. Men, boys and everybody enjoy the exercise of Foot Ball and now all can enter into the sport. It is the most exhilarating amusement and beautiful pastime a-going. BALL FREE. For a club of only three yearly subscribers at 25c. each we will send one of these great Foot Balls free, all charges paid, or send eighty-two cents and we will send the ball and one yearly subscription all charges paid. Address COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

SAVE ONE-HALF YOUR FUEL

We Tell You How.

Rochester Radiator Co., 30 Furnace St. Rochester, N.Y.

MEN, WOMEN BOYS, GIRLS Started in business on a new plan free: you make \$10 and upward for each few hours you work; energetic persons do it odd hours or overtime and bright boys and girls out of school hours; good pay for all time you work. Address our nearest office, The Crowell & Kirkpatrick Co., New York and Chicago.

SOMETHING NEW!!

This genuine 14k. Rolled Gold Set or Band Ring, Bracelet, Hat Pin, Chatelaine, Knife, Shirt Waist Set, Brooch, Pocket Book, etc.

FREE to anyone who will sell 6 each of our new ROMAN GOLD CUFF BUTTONS and Stick Pins at 10c. each. They sell quickly at the price; suitable for ladies or gentlemen. If you wish to earn a premium easily sell our Dumb

NO MONEY REQUIRED IN ADVANCE. Just send your name and address—any good mail will do—and we will send the premium and select

our premiums are the best. Write today and be the first in your town.

M. R. COMPANY, 79 Dearborn St., R-10, Chicago

OUR PREMIUMS ARE THE BEST.

Write today and be the first in your town.

M. R. COMPANY, 79 Dearborn St., R-10, Chicago

OUR PREMIUMS ARE THE BEST.

Write today and be the first in your town.

M. R. COMPANY, 79 Dearborn St., R-10, Chicago

OUR PREMIUMS ARE THE BEST.

Write today and be the first in your town.

M. R. COMPANY, 79 Dearborn St., R-10, Chicago

OUR PREMIUMS ARE THE BEST.

Write today and be the first in your town.

M. R. COMPANY, 79 Dearborn St., R-10, Chicago

OUR PREMIUMS ARE THE BEST.

Write today and be the first in your town.

M. R. COMPANY, 79 Dearborn St., R-10, Chicago

OUR PREMIUMS ARE THE BEST.

Write today and be the first in your town.

M. R. COMPANY, 79 Dearborn St., R-10, Chicago

OUR PREMIUMS ARE THE BEST.

Write today and be the first in your town.

M. R. COMPANY, 79 Dearborn St., R-10, Chicago

OUR PREMIUMS ARE THE BEST.

Write today and be the first in your town.

M. R. COMPANY, 79 Dearborn St., R-10, Chicago

OUR PREMIUMS ARE THE BEST.

Write today and be the first in your town.

M. R. COMPANY, 79 Dearborn St., R-10, Chicago

OUR PREMIUMS ARE THE BEST.

Write today and be the first in your town.

M. R. COMPANY, 79 Dearborn St., R-10, Chicago

OUR PREMIUMS ARE THE BEST.

Write today and be the first in your town.

M. R. COMPANY, 79 Dearborn St., R-10, Chicago

OUR PREMIUMS ARE THE BEST.

Write today and be the first in your town.

M. R. COMPANY, 79 Dearborn St., R-10, Chicago

OUR PREMIUMS ARE THE BEST.

Write today and be the first in your town.

M. R. COMPANY, 79 Dearborn St., R-10, Chicago

A PENCIL THAT WILL THINK FOR YOU.

LIGHTNING CALCULATING PENCIL.

The Great Profit Maker of the Century.

All Problems Solved. Short Cut to Results. A Quick Sum Total. No Mistakes Possible With Sunshine's Calculating Pencil.

Here is the only reliable never-failing standby. It is the nearest educational novelty of the day. This pencil is a marvel of ingenious mechanism, and a great profit maker for agents.

You will hardly believe that this pencil can figure quicker and more accurately than you can. It will calculate anything from 1x13 to 12x24 in the twinkling of an eye. It gives you 144 combinations and is absolutely correct. It can't make mistakes. It is made of pure Aluminum and attached to a Faber Pencil. Fits any ordinary pencil. It has a good eraser. It protects your pencil point. It is a pencil lengthener and stays in your pocket.

Let Sunshine's Calculating Pencil do your figuring and give your head a rest. A sleepy man will get more accurate results with its aid than a wide awake calculator could get without it. Simple and solidly made. Interesting and instructive to everyone. You can't think half as quickly and accurately as this pencil does it for you. Teachers children more in one hour than they learn in a week in any other way. Simple as a clothespin to manipulate, a child can learn to work it in five minutes. It never blunders, is easy to see through. Tell your friends and teachers about this wonderful device, it's the greatest educational novelty out. Interests dull pupils as well as bright ones. Creates enthusiasm in mental calculation and helps in the most difficult subject with which both teacher and pupil have to deal. We send full directions with each pencil so you can get it ready to work as quick and easy as you open a jackknife. You can multiply quicker than an expert, a lightning calculator. Get one to-day.

By a Twist of the Wrist this Little Wonder Solves all Mathematical Problems as Quick as a Wink.

In 1/2 of the time required by the usual methods. Even the Indian office of the U. S. government has recognized this educational novelty and recommended that the superintendents of all Indian schools be supplied with samples.

SPECIAL OFFER. These Calculating Pencils sell for 25c. each, but we are anxious to show you how wonderful they are so will send one free to all who enclose 15c. for a six months' subscription to SUNSHINE, the great monthly, two pencils and a year's subscription for only 25c. Thousands are sold by agents. We send six pencils for 60c., twelve for one dollar, all charges paid by us. One hundred for \$7.50, express not paid.

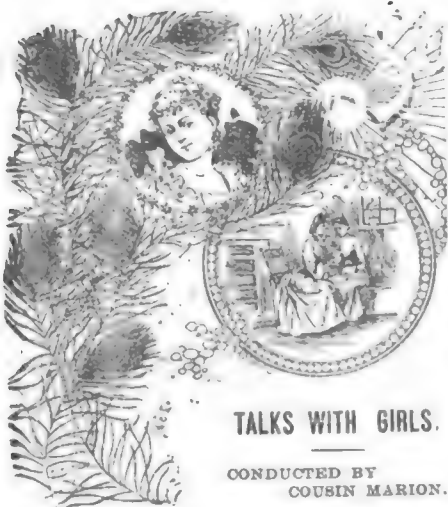
Address SUNSHINE, Box 1, Augusta, Maine.



THE NEW BERRY DISH.

STUFFED BEETS.

HALIBUT SALAD.



"The melancholy days have come the saddest of the year," or so the poet tells us, but there is no reason why we should be any sadder in September than we are in May, unless it is that we all have large families to keep warm, and coal is high. Let us be happy every month in the year, or try to, and the good Lord will surely reward us for making the world better. Now let us to our letters.

The first is from Cousin Huckleberry of Forest, Idaho, who wants to know what words to use in snubbing a young man. There are no set forms of words for this disagreeable duty. Circumstances and provocation must guide.

Tony, Chicago, Ills.—See answer above to your first two questions. (3) Goodness knows what can be done with a sister who is disagreeable to her sisters' gentlemen callers. I know several of that kind. They are incurable—unless you marry them out the house.

Penn Rose, Towner, Pa.—Don't elope. Wait awhile and try to win your parents over. If they refuse finally, marry the man you love, if he is worthy. (2) Treat the young man that makes fun of you with silent contempt. (3) Home work at good wages is hard to find, and you can't get it from the firms you ask about.

Meta, Sidney, Iowa.—It is quite proper for a lady to send a valentine to a gentleman. (2 and 3) Ask your mother.

Primrose, Owensboro, Ky.—Drop the young man who prefers base ball on Sunday to his best girl. (2) Yes, three sisters may keep company in the same room, if the company is formal. (3) Certainly, old maids may go to parties. (4) By no means wear glasses simply for style. You'll ruin your eyes. (5) Do as you please about giving birthday presents. (6) The lady furnishes her own stamps, of course.

Rhoda, Effington, S. D.—The man who asks you to go to a dance and does not come after you and makes no explanation is not a gentleman, and you should drop him. He will probably lie to you if you call for an apology.

Millie, Beaver Harbor, Canada.—This is the nineteenth century simply because the twentieth century is not here yet, and won't be till 1901. Time began in the year 1, and each century begins the same.

Mayflower, Rockland, Mich.—Exercise, sunshine, good food and sleep. (2) It would be better not to go to dances yet. (3) Wear your hair down. (4) Don't have a beau.

Bessie, Pensacola, Fla.—The right kind of an engaged girl will not leave her affianced to go walking with another man, unless there is a perfect understanding why she does.

Pansy, Oak Ridge, La.—It is quite correct to divide dances when men are plenty. (2) Yes, a girl may visit her affianced's mother even if there are no girls in the house. (3) Better not accept two rings from the man of your folly.

True-heart, Doylestown, Pa.—Stop writing to the young man you never met. If he is what you think he is he will call on you properly. You are foolish to think of loving a man you never saw. Possibly he is as black as the ace of spades.

Harryette, Ravenna, O.—Rings are often exchanged between those not engaged, but the practice is not a good one. (2) The man should not object to your accepting an escort when he is absent. (3) He should be there at the appointed hour, but you might wait a few minutes.

Rasters, Cleburne, Texas.—Yes, to all four of your questions.

Flirt, Dallas, Texas.—Will answer your questions five years from now.

Lena, Houghton, La.—Girls of sixteen and under should not correspond with men.

Benderline, Pine Bluff, Ark.—Girls in school should not have beaux. (2) It is not correct for a "visitor to rest her hat."

White Rose, Reuben, Ala.—It is proper to shake hands when introduced. (2) A good way to bring the young man to a sense of his situation is to accept the attentions of some other young man. If he wants you he will let you know. (3) Write to any of the music firms advertising in COMFORT.

Effie, Bridgeton, N. Y.—Let the young man go out of your life. He evidently loves the other girl.

Pest, Lewistown, Mon.—The lady may suggest returning from the drive. (2) The boys are silly to "get mad" over the trick you played on them, and the best thing for them is to let them sulk and suck their thumbs. They'll be men after awhile.

Helene, San Francisco, Cal.—There is no free grammar class that I know of. (2) Write to M. D. Hurt, 1510 H street, N. W., Washington, D. C., about the other matter.

Flower Girl, Sable River, N. S.—The young man should not carry his hands in his pockets while

walking with you. (2) In writing to a near friend address him informally, calling him by his first name if you know him well enough.

Sweet Pea, Elmdale, Kans.—Write to F. H. Snow, Ph.D., LL.D., Lawrence, Kans.

C. H. L., Brooklyn, Iowa.—The man with the lady takes off his hat when she speaks to any one whether he knows the person or not. (2) Yes.

B. F., Bellville, Texas.—There is no guaranteed cure for a bunion. Bunion shields, to be had at any druggist's, are good, but better is a shoe that will fit the foot right. There are such shoes made. Ask your shoe man.

H. E. H. L., Bristol, Me.—One young man may escort two or more ladies home from church or anywhere else. If the sidewalk is too narrow they must divide up to suit themselves. (2) Ask some of your friends to accompany you if the young man insists on walking with you. A policeman ought to be called for a young ruffian of that sort.

Ola, Vansycle, Ore.—Since you ask me many questions and agree to take my advice, I will answer them all by saying that you are too young to bother about such things as beaux and ought to study your books and all the ways to be good and useful when you are a woman.

Bud and Blossom, Sabula, Iowa.—Almost any kind of a game at parties is all right except a kissing game. They are common and vulgar.

Margaret, Post, Ore.—Nearly sixteen years old and don't know how to spell your name yet, and still you want to know about beaux. My, my, don't you think you had better study up on some other subject?

Pet, Nottoway, Va.—All your questions are answered in this column.

Violet, Augusta, Mo.—If the young man doesn't know enough to go home at the proper hour the girl ought to know enough to tell him to go.

Mary, Dwight, Mass.—Clean white silk ribbon with naphtha or gasoline, applying it with a cloth. If you put the material in the gasoline, press it out afterwards between cloths.

Tulip, La Grange, Ark.—Better see the doctor about the warts. The best thing for tan is lanoline, from any drug store, and lemon juice, say a teaspoonful of each, or half if you don't want so much. Apply before going to bed.

Lillian Evelyn, Johnson, Vt.—Lemon juice applied at night will remove freckles. (2) You are not old enough to wear your hair up, or to go wheeling with young men.

There, dears, all your questions are answered, and you have my best wishes until we meet again in October, and then too.

COUSIN MARION.

SOME FAMOUS HORSES.



N the banks of the Boyne near the battlefield lies buried William III's favorite horse which was shot under him. After the battle William ordered a monument erected and his horse buried beneath it, with all the pomp of military ceremony.

"Copenhagen" the famous charger that carried the Duke of Wellington victorious at Waterloo died of old age in 1836 and was buried with honors. Over the horse's grave was erected an edifice worth about 2,000 pounds.

The most recent monument erected was in 1896 at Korea in memory of horses belonging to officers of the Japanese army.

Spanking is the method used to discipline prisoners of some of our reformatories.

In the Bible the 19th Chapter of II. King and the 37th Chapter of Isaiah are alike.

DISCOVERED BY A WOMAN.

I have discovered a positive cure for all female diseases and the piles. It never fails to cure any of the various diseases peculiar to women, such as leucorrhoea, displacements, ulceration, granulation, etc., or the piles from any cause or in either sex. I will gladly mail a box of this wonderful medicine free to every sufferer. Mrs. C. B. MILLER, Box 106, Kokomo, Ind.

A Rough Rider Sword Stick Pin

is the latest idea for a campaign novelty. Can be worn by supporters of all candidates. Very attractive. Warranted gold plated, wide sword blade, a very strong handsome pin. Can be worn by either sex in the necktie or on the shirt waist. We have a quantity to unload and will send one all charges paid for only 10c. stamps or silver. Address NATIONAL FARMER, Augusta, Maine.



THE PIANO HARP FREE Musical Wonder! Any one plays it. Grand Piano Tone; played vertically like large harp. Price \$5. Send 10 or more names, persons likely to buy; we will send you one free. Harp Co., 21 L. St., Columbus, O.



1900 YOU CAN EASILY and Quickly Earn a BICYCLE, LADIES' JACKET, Hat, Couch, Watch, Camera, Etc., by selling a few boxes of our high-grade Toilet Soap or Perfume to your friends and neighbors. It sells on its merits. No money required in advance. We have the best plan for Boys, Girls and Women. Our premiums are absolutely the best. Large illustrated list of premiums mailed FREE. Write to-day for particulars. DAWSON SOAP CO., 56 Fifth Ave., Dept. 74, CHICAGO.



\$1000 SALARY PER YEAR PAYABLE WEEKLY. LADIES OR GENTLEMEN. We have shared the general prosperity of the country, and need one or two permanent representatives in each state to look after our interests, and attend to collections. Your salary is sent you every Saturday by us, and Expenses Advanced. It is mainly office work at home, with an occasional trip among the agents. No investment required. Also 3 salaried vacancies in traveling department. Enclose references and stamped envelope to PROVIDENCE CO., 145 CAXTON BUILDING, CHICAGO.

I CURE FITS

When I say I cure I do not mean merely to stop them for a time and then have them return again. I mean a radical cure. I have made the disease of FITS, EPILEPSY or FALLING SICKNESS a life-long study. I warrant my remedy to cure the worst cases. Because others have failed is no reason for not now receiving a cure. Send at once for a treatise and a Free Bottle of my infallible remedy. Give Express and Post Office.

Prof. W. H. PEEKE, F.D., 4 Cedar St., N. Y.

\$83.33 Monthly Salary

payable weekly with expenses. Men or Women to represent us in their own state, to take charge of collectors and attend to collections. NO INVESTMENT REQUIRED. This is a strictly bona-fide salary proposition. IT INVOLVES NO CANVASSING whatever. Expenses remitted in advance and salary forwarded from headquarters. NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY. Give references. Enclose stamp. Address CO-OPERATIVE CO., 835 Star Bldg., CHICAGO.



LADIES \$15 to \$40 make WEEKLY

Selling MODEL SKIRTS, the most fashionable Petticoat on the market. Sells at sight. Write for terms and exclusive territory. Model Garment Co. Dept. A 161 E. Superior St. CHICAGO, ILL.



\$900 Buy a High Arm Sewing Machine

Send your name and address and we will mail you our catalogue. Select any style Oxford-sewing machine, and we will send it by prepaid freight on 30 days' free trial, with all attachments and 20 years' guarantee. Easy running. Does light or heavy work as good as a \$400.00 machine. Buy from factory. OXFORD SEW. MCH CO. 2946 22d St. Chicago.



AXENA Electric Bust Perfector

New Electro Magnetic Appliances that will positively develop the flattest bust. Absolutely harmless. No drugs, medicines or vacuum used. Guaranteed to develop any bust. Failure impossible. Only true method. Endorsed by entire medical profession. Handsome illustrated BOOK MAILED FREE full instructions "How to Become Beautiful." AXENA TOILET CO., Dept. 15, Masonic Temple, CHICAGO.

30 Novels and Stories Free.

We have just issued a large paged, 25 cent quarto volume containing Thirty Novels, Stories, Sketches, Etc., by some of the most popular writers of the day—including *Josiah Allen's Wife, Clara Augusta, Rett Winwood, Julian Hawthorne, Frank H. Sweet, Sophie Hayes, Geo. L. Aiken, Etc., Etc.* Here are the titles of some of the novels & stories included in this fine collection.

How I Became an Old Maid.
A Summer Wooing.
An Old Man's Darling.
Would Nancy Have Him?
The Chances of Being Loved.
Harry's Wife.
Mr. Haggett's Discovery.
Shooting at a Bottle.
Fate Against Her.
The Haunted Hat.
Disciplining a Small Boy.
Noodleby's Experience.
The Price of Betrayal.
Choosing a Wife.
Jabe Hawkin's Luck.
The Return of Fitz-Smith.

Violet's Boarders.
Hannah Jane's Fourth.
Lena Lawson's Adventure.
Nature May Have Chosen.
A Proud Wife.
Grandmother's Old Brocade.
An Abused Man.
Ready for Company.
She Caught Cold.
Hiram's Mistake.
A Detective Story.
Society.
A Wife's Devotion.
My Lost Destiny.
Self-Punished.
Just the Opposite.

In order to introduce our publications more widely we will send the above described collection of Novels, Stories, etc., free by mail postpaid on receipt of only three 2-cent stamps. Satisfaction guaranteed. Address.

Hearthstone Pub. House, 58 DUANE ST., NEW YORK.

Send 15 One Cent Stamps FOR ONE of my IDEAL FOUNDATION PENS. Warranted to do the work equal to any pen made, and cannot be told from a \$2.00 pen. Will last for years. HARRY ARNET, C, 108 Dearborn St., Chicago.

MARRY

NEW PLAN OF Correspondence: Papers, Photos, etc. FREE! sent sealed. DIRECTORY CO., Marshall, Mich.

WE ARE

Searching for Sufferers

YOU MAY NOT FEEL SICK

BUT ALL HANDS POINT TO THE FACT YOU ARE NOT WELL AND WHETHER YOU BE MAN OR WOMAN YOU WILL SOON TAKE ON THIS AGONIZED LOOK.

WE CAN HELP YOU.



YOU DON'T NEED MEDICINE.

But you say you feel generally miserable or suffer with a thousand and one indescribable bad feelings, both mental and physical? Among them low spirits, nervousness, weariness, lifelessness, weakness, dizziness 'feelings of fullness or bloating after eating, or sense of "goneness" or emptiness of stomach in morning, flesh soft and lacking firmness, headache, blurring of eyesight, specks floating before the eyes, nervous irritability, poor memory, chilliness, alternating with hot flushes, lassitude, throbbing, gurgling, or rumbling sensations in bowels, with heat and nipping pains occasionally, palpitation of heart, short breath on exertion, slow circulation of blood. Don't your hands and feet become cold and clammy, do you HAWK AND SPIT and expectorate greenish colored matter? Is your urine scanty or high colored and does it deposit a sediment after standing? You have pain and oppression in chest and back, pain around the loins, aching and weariness of the lower limbs, drowsiness after meals, but nervous wakefulness at night, languor in the morning and a constant feeling of dread as if something awful was about to happen.



There Is Help for You. You Can Yet Be Happy.

I have an appliance. The only way to introduce it is to let you try it FREE. You will tell others if it helps you. It is perfectly harmless. Send us your name we are looking for real sufferers and knowing it will do you good you can cure yourself without trouble or expense. This article is perfectly safe and reliable, can be worn day and night, all of the time or part of the time and in any place or spot on the body that feels sick or shows pain—it is most marvelous acting and is the greatest God-send you ever heard of. After you use it and you feel its power you will say \$25 would not have prevented me from sending for it. It acts just as well on man or woman.

THE ONLY CONDITIONS.

We send one all charges paid. It is Medical and we are obliged to put on Revenue stamps. Therefore as we furnish them entirely free we simply ask you to send us TEN CENTS for mailing, etc. We trust to your honor to tell others about the cure and know many will be sold thereby. We do not ask you to send any more money unless you want others to sell at a profit after you try it. Address, G. O. COMPANY, Box 654, Augusta, Maine.

AN ALL ROUND CONVENIENCE AND MONEY MAKER.



Aluminum Combined Pen and Pencil Holder.

HANDY AS A POCKET

IN A SHIRT. HOLDS

PENCIL IN POCKET, PREVENTS

ITS ROLLING ON SLANTING DESK. A

PERFECT PENHOLDER. EJECTS PEN AUTO-

MATICALLY. A Perfect Pencil Extension and Rubber Protector.

Made of Aluminum, light as a feather—looks like silver and will always wear the same—does not soil hands and will not corrode or rust.

Our Aluminum Combined Pen and Pencil Holder is a Brand New Article, novel and useful in a good many ways. Makes money for the dealer and agents, and pleases all who buy and use it. Is a quick seller. Any one can sell it, in fact it sells itself when and wherever properly shown. Is used by LADIES as well as GENTLEMEN and is a prime favorite with TEACHERS and SCHOOL CHILDREN. Use it once and you will not be without it. Order a sample and you will surely want a dozen, which is only enough to go around in an ordinary family with a few extra for friends. By sliding it on an ordinary lead pencil it makes a perfect pen holder. When used as pen holder it is automatic, ejecting the pen by sliding either way on pencil. Makes a fine desk tool as it can be used either as a pen or pencil and will not roll even on a moderately slanting surface. Greatest tool for school desk. Does away with pencil or pen holder as we have both in one. As a Pencil Holder it has no equal. It will hold pencil perfectly in vest or inside coat pocket or any other place which is not too thick for clasp to go over. Always on your pencil. Stays wherever you place it. No matter if your pockets are full of holes; it holds your pencil securely. Anyone can sell these holders in fact they sell themselves. Send to-day, don't delay. Address FAMILY HERALD, Augusta, Maine.

The price of these Holders with pencil is ten cents each, but we want them introduced quickly and make the following

SPECIAL OFFER. Enclose only 6c. for a three months' subscription to Family Herald and we will send free one sample holder, a nice rubber tipped pencil and best steel pen, all full particulars how to make honest dollars.

EXTRA SPECIAL OFFER. Send 4 25c. for a year's subscription and we send half dozen rubber tipped lead pencils which you can sell for 30c., half dozen Pen and Pencil holders sell for 35c., half dozen best steel pens sell for 40c., total retail value of goods given you free 60c. and we also send full directions and instructions how to start and carry on a most profitable business without capital.

COMFORT'S PARTIAL PREMIUM LIST, FOR 1900-1901.

Don't destroy this issue of "Comfort!" If you are not able to get up a club for "COMFORT" now or have not the money at present to renew or subscribe, preserve this number and remember to order from it later in the fall or even next year, as we will supply you with any of the premiums presented here at any time during the next twelve months unless they are entirely sold; we will refund the money in that case. If you can not send in a full list of subscribers to secure a large premium all at once send what you can and we credit you the amount sent and send Premium. Remember "COMFORT" is a 50c. paper, but we will until further notice take subscriptions at the special price of 25c. per year. We offer these great inducements to you to get up these clubs of trial subscribers, and to make the work easier offer not only valuable premiums but place special prices on trial subscriptions of 3, 6 or 12 months, which count just as many in making the clubs as if the full regular subscription price was paid; so that you have every advantage in getting up such clubs. The cost of a year's subscription to this wonderful paper is so trifling, and there is more reading matter in it than in any other monthly paper in the world. Look over the list and try for a prize. The holidays will soon be here. Address all orders for Premiums

COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

The Victoria Stamping Outfit.

More Artistic Patterns for the Money than were ever Dreamed of.



- 1 Very Handsome Centerpiece of Carnations, 17x17 inches.
- 1 Pretty Corner-piece of Pansies and Leaves, 6x6 inches.
- 1 Design of Strawberries and Leaves for Dolly, 5x8 1/2.
- 1 Design Orchid and Leaves for Scarf Corner, 6x10.
- 1 Clover Design for Dolly.
- 1 Design for Baby's Bib, Rosebuds and word Baby, 4x4.
- 1 Design for Cheese Dolly, 3x3 1/2.
- 1 Design for Souvenir Case with Motto, 5x6 1/2.
- 1 Design for Shoe Bag, 5x10.
- 1 Design for Shaving Bag with Motto, 6x6.
- 1 Fruit Design for Fruit Plate Dolly, 3 1/2 x 3 1/2.
- 1 Design for Carving Cloth, 11 1/2 x 15 1/2.
- 1 Design for Tumbler Dolly, 4x4.
- 1 Pretty Corner Design for Tea-cloth, Jewel Work, 9x9.
- 1 Design for Table Dolly, 8x8.
- 1 Design for Water Bottle Dolly, 6x6.
- 1 Design for Butter Plate Dolly, 3 1/2 x 3 1/2.
- 1 Cut Work Dolly Design, 5x5.
- 1 Very Pretty Design for Corner, Battenberg Work, 7x7.
- 1 Design for Border with Corner, 5x16.
- 1 Floral Corner Geranium, 6 1/2 x 6 1/2.
- 1 Design Water Lily for Dolly.

- 1 Floral Wreath for Monogram or Handkerchief Case, 5x5.
- 1 Design for Tray Cloth, 7x15.
- 1 Design for Centerpiece, Maidenhair Ferns, 9 1/2 x 9 1/2.
- 1 Rosebud Dolly, 7 1/2 x 7 1/2.
- 1 Alphabet for Towels or Table Linen, 1 1/2 inches high.
- 1 Design Centerpiece, Pansies, 10x10.
- 1 Pansy Dolly, 6 1/2 x 6 1/2.
- 1 Alphabet for Handkerchiefs or Fine Linen, 1 inch high.
- 1 Border for Flannel Work, 3 1/2 inches wide, and 29 other designs for embroidery of every description for numerous to mention here.



The patterns are made of linen bond paper, and consist of 9 sheets of patterns, each sheet 14x22 inches in size. As good as can be made. With each outfit, we send full instructions for doing the stamping, and one piece of EUREKA COMPOUND, enabling anyone to do permanent stamping, instantly, without heat or trouble. Your money back if you want it, but no one ever does.

AN OFFER TO EVERY LADY. If you will send us only 25 cents we will send you one outfit, all charges paid and make you a trial subscription to the largest, brightest and best illustrated monthly paper for 3 months, postpaid.

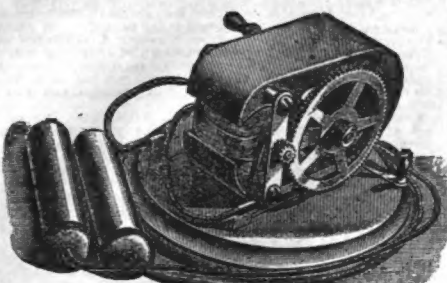
Address COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

ELECTRICITY IS LIFE.

THE GREAT HOME HEALER.

Pain Vanishes, Blooming Health Returns at the Touch of Science.

Read of this Modern Scientific Machine that Heals, Teaches and Amuses.



Electricity no longer the master but the servant of man, represents to us light, heat and force. By these three great powers everything on earth lives and electricity means life. This grand machine is a combined motor and dynamo and gives a perfect electric organization. Most interesting and instructive of the recent products of electrical science; teaches and instructs while it amuses, young and old alike. Scientific in construction and no student or ingenious boy should be without it. Perfectly harmless, but produces no end of fun, by giving shocks to circles and many harmless tricks. **FOR A HOME CURE.** Doctors know almost every known disease and pain yields readily to electrical currents. The cost of electric batteries as generally sold places them far beyond reach of any but the wealthy. This Electrical Machine has been produced by the latest and most improved machinery and at nominal cost as compared with the expensive batteries formerly sold at \$5, \$10 or \$20 each. The great improvements in machinery enables us to produce this and to offer it to you for a mere trifle. **See What Electricity is Used For.** There is no disease of the nerves or any bodily pain which will not yield readily to electric currents. This wonderful machine utilizes the forces of nature; drives out Rheumatic Pains, Neuralgia and every species of blood and nerve disease; Cures Weakness of every kind and nature and restores youthful health and vigor. **Works like a miracle for that worn out feeling and languor and despondency and strengthening nervous system with a direct (not alternating) current, large in volume but pleasant to take, no shock or irritation.** Patent switch adjusts current to weakest child or strongest man. A valuable treatise by Dr. Cutten accompanies every machine shipped. We now place nature's great restorative agent, Electricity, within the reach of every sufferer rich or poor.

A Wonderful Offer to All. This Electrical Machine is needed in every home and family. We will send one to any person who will send us \$1.00, and 25 cents to pay all shipping charges besides sending our great home paper, COMFORT, subscription paid for one year. (\$1.25 for everything.) Address COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

A Complete Outfit of 44 Tools FREE.

GREATEST MONEY MAKER AND MONEY SAVER EVER SEEN: NEEDED IN EVERY HOUSE IN THE WORLD.

Hundreds of dollars are wasted every year in paying for repairs which could be done by you just as well as by the person you hire. "Yes," you will say, "I could do this work if I only had the tools." You have to hire the plumber or cobbler and pay him for his time while you stand around and look on, watching him do the work which you could do as well as he, but it is always that you have no tools. We have put together the best kit of tools for repairing which was ever seen, and we will sell the entire outfit for less than half the money for which you could buy it at any store. The outfit consists of **forty-four first-class tools**, as shown in the above cut, viz: 1 Iron last for men's work; 1 Iron last for boy's work; 1 Iron last for women's work; 1 Iron last for children's work; 1 Iron stand for lasts; 1 Shoehammer; 1 shoeknife; 1 peg awl handle; 1 peg awl; 1 wrench for peg awl handle; 1 sewing awl handle; 1 sewing awl; 1 stabbing awl handle; 1 stabbing awl; 1 bottle leather cement; 1 bottle rubber cement; 1 bunch bristles; 1 ball shoe thread; 1 ball shoe wax; 1 pkg. clinch nails, 4-8 in.; 1 pkg. clinch nails 5-8 in.; 1 pkg. clinch nails, 6-8 in.; 1 pkg. heel nails; 4 prs. heel plates, assorted sizes; 6 harness needles; 1 harness and saw clamp; 1 box assorted rivets, assorted sizes; 1 rivet set for same; 1 harness and belt punch; 1 soldering iron, ready for use; 1 handle for same; 1 bar solder; 1 bar resin; 1 bottle soldering fluid; 1 copy directions for half-soles, etc.; 1 copy directions for soldering all securely packed, together with directions for use, in a neat case. These tools bought at a hardware store separately would cost between \$7.00 and \$9.00. You can repair boots and shoes, tap and heel them, mend your harness or make a new one, mend all kinds of tinware, repair pumps, plumbing and similar work, and do all kinds of leather work about carriages, etc., as well as re-kinds of rubber made articles. The clamp is used for mending harnesses and filling saws. Has a coil spring and is made of iron. **You can easily save five times the cost of this outfit in six months** and make a heap of money doing little repairs for your neighbors and others. "A stitch in time saves nine," and if you have these tools in your house you can make repairs and save a great deal of money which you would pay if you let a break go or hired a man to do your repairing work for you. Every one of these tools are full sized, practical, neat and cheap. It is the only complete outfit in the market and thousands have been sold in past years for \$3.00 when the outfit contained but about half as many smaller articles to people living in the country and small towns as well as in the city. This repairing outfit, weighing 20 lbs. will be sent by freight complete as above described for **only \$1.62** which includes a 6 months trial subscription to this paper.



HOME REPAIRING OUTFIT NO. 1
FOR
BOOT, SHOE, HARNESS AND TINWARE REPAIRING.

GREAT PREMIUM OFFER.—If you will get up a club of 6 yearly trial subscribers to this paper at the special price of 25 cents each, we will send you one of these repairing outfits as a present to you.

COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

A \$5.00 SHAVING SET FOR ONLY \$1.49. OR SENT FREE FOR A CLUB OF FOUR.



The average man saves about twenty-five dollars a year by shaving himself and by having a good outfit, you can take comfort enough and save dollars enough to carry you over many rough places in life. We have tried to get up a practical shaving outfit for many years, but the expense of fitting out a suitable case of bang-up. **No. one** tool has been so great that not until a visit to Norway and Sweden revealed the fact that **Swedish Razors** were now the best in the world and the makers were anxious to prove it to the American people could we do so. Thus we have bargained for a large lot of the best quality at very low figures. By getting the goods from different countries and buying in large lots, we have made up a case of great value at very small cost. These outfits come packed in cases eight inches long, six inches wide and five inches high. The combination consists of: 1 Royal Steel Swedish Razor, single value \$3.00; 1 Genuine, Horseshoe, Double, Reversible, Canvass-back, Nickel-hung, Ebonyized Handle Razor Strop, value \$1.00; 1 Real China Shaving Mug; 1 Cake Star Shaving Soap; 1 Best Bristle, large handle Lather Brush; 1 Cake Perfumed Lump Magnesia; 1 Silk rich perfumed Cosmetic—making a grand \$5.00 combination, all packed in a compact case ready for shipment. We estimated that nearly every man in the country out of necessity shaves himself at some time or other during each month and one long wait in a barber shop sometimes costs more than this whole outfit is valued at. Every man should have an outfit in the house for emergency's use at all events and we have thus got it together at a low cost so as to be able to offer the best articles at the lowest cost. **Every woman** should see to it that either her Father, her Husband, her Brother or her Sweetheart has one of these outfits. They make the best presents one can give to a gentleman, and **you can get one free as follows:** Send a club of five yearly subscribers to this paper at 25c. each and we will send an outfit all charges paid, or send \$1.49 in cash and we deliver it free—extending your subscription one year.

Address COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

SILVER CAKE

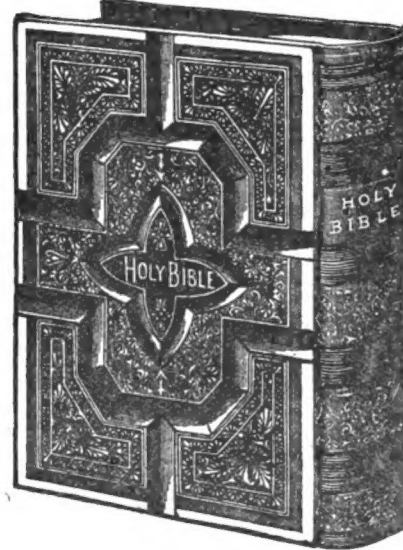


We have lately taken a large amount of triple plate silverware on a debt and will send you this Elegant, Gold lined Silver Cake Basket free, all charges paid for a club of six subscribers at 25c. each. This Cake Basket is of the latest pattern and will wear a life time. It is the finest silver plate, highly decorated with beautiful patent rolled edge. We only have a few of them left so get up your club of six subscribers at 25c. each, to-day, and you will always enjoy it. You can sell this basket for \$3.98 in a minute. If you can't get up the club, send us \$1.38 cash and we will send the Basket by express and include one year's subscription. We also have a fine five Bottle Silver Castor and a Superb Silver Butter Dish at the same price if you prefer either one to the Basket. Address, COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

A MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE AND

A FAMILY BIBLE FOR \$1.89.

DELIVERED AT YOUR HOME.



This edition excels all others in the excellence of paper and exquisite topography, being printed from an entirely new set of plates costing \$20,000. The size of page is 12x9 inches, the print large and clear, and there are **TEN BEAUTIFUL FULL-PAGE PHOTOGRAVURE** PICTURES of rare artistic excellence and some of the most superb masterpieces of Modern Paintings, being in harmony with the justly celebrated OXFORD TEACHERS' BIBLES. They are bound in fine Morocco Buckram Paneled Sides, and contain the Old and New Testaments, authorized version, a complete list of contents of each chapter in both Old and New Testaments, giving in concise form the subject on which each chapter treats; for instance, we find in this table that the 5th chapter of Deuteronomy contains the Ten Commandments, thus forming a ready reference table. It also gives the number of books, chapters, verses, etc., in the Holy Bible, also gives the number of times many familiar words occur in the work, also a very neat, plain Marriage Certificate and Family Record. Our New Bible is just what the people want; excellent paper, handsome illustrations, good, clear print, handsome and durable bindings, and last but not least, an **EXTRAORDINARY FAMILY RECORD**, entirely different from that contained in any other Bibles in the country. The print is of large size, clear and distinct, just right for grandfather and grandmother to read without their glasses, while the full-page engravings will interest and instruct the little children. It is the book for every member of the family.

Our price by mail or express, charges fully paid to your post-office, is only \$1.89. Only think of it! A Bible, 12x9 inches, weighing more than five pounds, for \$1.89! In addition to the Bible we will give a year's subscription to this paper.

SPECIAL PREMIUM OFFER. Send a club of six subscribers at our special subscription price of 25 cents a year each, or a club of 12 at our special club rate of 15 cents a year each, and we will send it free as a premium.

Address COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

WOMAN'S DELIGHT AND MAN'S PRIDE.

An Article in which Luxury and Utility are Harmoniously Blended.

BEAUTIFUL IN DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION AND USE.

A writing desk and bookcase are indispensable in every home. We are enabled to make it possible for every reader of this paper to obtain a fashionable and luxurious article of furniture which will be of use every hour in the day, and, which by its rich elegance and tasteful appearance, will prove an ornament in every home where it is placed.

THE ELITE WRITING DESK AND BOOKCASE

is richly designed in the artistic and graceful Modern-Antique style that is the correct style in the homes of wealthy and fashionable people in society. It is built of clear, solid oak, in a thorough and substantial manner, and will last a century with ordinary care, growing handsomer as the wood constantly improves with age. It is 5 feet in height, and 2 feet 6 inches in width. Four large, deep shelves for books or vases and bric-a-brac; and a splendid desk with folding top, full complement of pigeon-holes and receptacles for paper, envelopes, letters, bills, securities, etc. In fact, a perfect and complete secretary for the library, the office, the parlor, or anywhere where an ornamental desk is needed. The most desirable premium ever offered to the people at a popular cost, and everyone guaranteed satisfactory.

Our Grand Offer. We will send this splendid bookcase and desk, exactly as described, to any person who will send \$4.27 for this paper for a trial year's subscription. Freight charges only to be paid by the receiver on arrival. This is the grandest offer ever made by a reliable publisher on any article of select and fashionable furniture.

Splendid Club Offer. If you will get up a club of only 15 yearly subscribers at the special trial subscription price of 25 cents each, we will send one of these cases and desks to you **Free**. Address, COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.



French and Swiss Music Boxes Outplayed by the New AMERICAN ROLLER ORGAN.

THIS ROLLER ORGAN PLAYS ANY TUNE arranged for it, from a Waltz to a Hymn, with perfect tune and time. Gives better satisfaction than a HUNDRED-DOLLAR PARLOR ORGAN and ten times more pleasure. Plays more than 1,000 tunes in a superb manner and charms every listener. The grandest and most marvelous musical instrument ever presented to the public. THE NEW AMERICAN ROLLER ORGAN is operated upon a similar plan to the FINEST FRENCH MUSIC-BOXES. The instrument is thoroughly made. No better work is found in the most expensive musical machinery. A child can operate it. WILL NEVER WEAR OUT. This instrument is the Perfection of musical ingenuity and PLAYS SACRED MUSIC, MARCHES, WALTZES, POLKAS, JIGS, REELS, Selections from Operas, Popular Songs, Church Music, as well as any organ, and is arranged for DANCE MUSIC perfectly. YOU SHOULD HAVE ONE OF THE ABOVE DESCRIBED INSTRUMENTS. Nothing grander or combining so many features can be found in French or Swiss Music-boxes, costing \$100. WE WANT A SPECIAL AGENT, EITHER SEX, IN EVERY LOCALITY, AND OFFER SUCH INDUCEMENTS THAT EARNEST WORKERS CANNOT FAIL TO MAKE \$100 TO \$300 PER MONTH. When you order a sample instrument ask for Special Terms.

These instruments will be offered for FIVE DOLLARS, IN BEAUTIFULLY CARVED CASES, with music. Send for one. It will fill you with astonishment and delight. If you want it sent C. O. D. send \$1.50 when you order and pay balance \$3.50 when you get organ. Send P. O. Order, Registered Letter or Express Money-order. We will include a year's subscription to this paper to every one who sends the money in full for an organ. Perhaps you would like to get one and pay us for it in a few hours' work. If such is the case you may raise a club of 32 subscribers to this paper at our special club rate of 15 cents a year each, or a club of 17 at our special subscription price of 25 cents a year each, and we will send you the Roller Organ to pay you for your trouble. Address, COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.



A REAL ORIENTAL RUG

is a very expensive article and is used extensively in the homes of the wealthy. This Rug is a Beautiful picture in itself. An immense factory employing hundreds of hands turning out thousands and as they are made in bright oriental colors and patterns they produce an exquisite effect when laid on the floor. These Brussaline Rugs are fit to grace the floor of a Parlor, Sitting-Room, Hall, Dining-Room or Chamber and for an entry or kitchen rug or mat are simply grand; they are made by an entirely new process of Machine Rug making, and thus called Brussaline and we are anxious to get them before the people at once. Thousands upon thousands will be sold after they are shown and we offer you one free, now, in order to introduce them all over the country and after getting one you can show them around, take orders and make money selling them for us.

A MILLION RUGS

are in use; yes many million Rugs, taking the world over but in this country Thousands now use Rugs where one was used a few years ago, they are constantly growing in favor and getting more popular every day. Why? because they are practical and economical and make the House, Store or Office, more easy to take care of and give a certain dressy effect to a room that cannot be obtained in any other way. You can use them on bare floors to cover up the cold look or lay them on carpets to save the carpet.

TO GET THE RUG.

If you will send us the names of only two yearly subscribers with 25c. each, we will send you one of these beautiful Brussaline Rugs Free as a Premium all charges said by us. This is the best Home paper published and sample copies will be sent on application, if you wish to show them to your friends and get up the club. We will send the Rug and a year's subscription for 67c. Address

COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

HA! HA! HA! FUN ALIVE! The Comical Mirror.



A handsome convex mirror in a case suitable for carrying in the pocket. For many years the funniest and most laughable attraction in nearly every museum has been the large convex mirrors in which a person appears drawn out as long and narrow as a bean pole, or flattened down like a gridiron with a face as broad as a cellar door. This mirror produces the same effect as the large and expensive mirrors in the museums. By holding the mirror in an upright position stout people look thin and in a horizontal position thin people look stout; anyone can recognize themselves at once, but their features are so distorted and their general appearance so changed that they cannot fail to have a good laugh over it. If you have a friend (lady or gentleman) who think they are a little better looking than anyone else, let them take a peep into the mirror and it will take them down a peg or two—either the "short and fat" view or the "long and slim" view are stunner and will cure the blues every time. Send for one it will afford you lots of fun.

GRAND OFFER TO YOU. Send us 12 cents and we will send this splendid literary monthly for the Home, three whole months on a trial subscription and one Comical Mirror, postpaid; for 27 cents we will send you the paper 3 months and three mirrors all paid; or, for only 76 cents we will send the paper a whole year and one dozen mirrors by express. Address COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.



WE GIVE THIS WATCH FOR A CLUB OF 4.



Thirty Minutes is a short time, but many have earned one of these watches in less time than that. It is one of the very best watches for time ever offered to our readers at no matter what the price asked for it. We know, of course, there are watches that cost more money, because they are in gold or silver cases, but they will not keep any better time, simply because they cannot. This watch keeps not perfect time, we never saw the watch that did, but it keeps as near perfect time as watches usually do. We have such faith in this watch as a timekeeper that we send with every one a guarantee just as binding as that given with any watch, no matter what make. We are willing to give you this watch if you will do us a slight service, which you can easily do in an hour. We wish to increase our subscription list, and we want the assistance of every reader of this paper to that end. We do not want you to do it for nothing, we will reward you for it. You can easily secure this valuable watch if you get four subscribers to this paper, at our special subscription price of 25 cents a year each. Do this, sending us \$1.00, with the names of four subscribers to this paper, and we will send our paper to each subscriber for one year, and we will send you the watch to reward you for your efforts in our behalf. Start out now and see what you can do. Remember we guarantee every watch. If you get five subscribers and send us \$1.25 for the same we will also send you a nice chain. Address

COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

CUT GLASS, SILVER TOP CREAM PITCHER FREE.



This refined Cut Glass finish Cream Pitcher is like crystal diamonds in its sparkling beauty; and is just a neat handy size for table creamer. Its pattern is the latest thing in style, and having a Quadruple Silver Plated Rim to top it out makes it as dainty as it is chaste and beautiful. Heretofore anything in cut glass has been so very expensive that the price has prevented its general use. By the invention of special new machinery the high cost has been largely overcome and we can now present a premium of genuine worth to be given free for a few minutes work. This cream pitcher with its dainty silver topped rim is pretty enough to grace any table and it will give a fine effect and make a good setting to the rest of one's table fittings. It should sell for 67c, but we will send one free, all charges paid, for a club of two yearly subscribers at 25c each or send 33c for a year's subscription and we will send the creamer to you free.

COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

THE LOVER'S ENCYCLOPAEDIA.

Fun, Amusement, and Instruction for All.



No young lady or young man can be quite "up-to-date" without the knowledge which this book contains.

It tells the art and etiquette of conversation—how, when and where to talk.

It gives full instructions regarding dress and personal appearance, and the secret of ease and grace in deportment and conversation under embarrassing circumstances.

It tells how to cure bashfulness.

Worth \$5 to any bashful young man. It gives full instructions in the art of winning the opposite sex. It tells how to choose a partner for life. The laws of marriage. How to make courting a success. How to propose. Marriage and its results.

It gives dozens of funny love letters, and scores of odd and ingenious proposals never before published. Everyone may get new ideas to fit any case.

It contains fifteen hundred gems of prose and poetry, choice selections suitable for inscriptions with birthday, holiday and wedding gifts, Christmas, New Year's and Easter cards, autograph albums, valentines, etc., etc.

It is literally packed from cover to cover with just the things you want to know. It is a regular 50 cent book, but we will mail them to any address, carefully wrapped, for just half price, one copy for 25 Cents.

Which includes a three months' subscription to

COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

THE EAGLE CLAW,

A WONDERFUL INVENTION. BEST TRAP IN THE WORLD FOR CATCHING FISH, ANIMALS, AND ALL MANNER OF GAME.



PREMIUM OFFER.

We will send a No. 1, Eagle Claw Hook and our splendid monthly paper six months on trial for only 30 cents; or, send us 50 cents and we will send the No. 2, Eagle Claw-hook and our paper on trial six months. Price, per dozen, by express, No. 1, \$2.25; No. 2, \$3.50. Address COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.



UNIFORM YOUR CLUB.



BOYS' LEAGUE BASE BALL OUTFIT.

PRICE, \$2.00.

EACH OUTFIT CONTAINS
9 BASE BALL CAPS.
9 BASE BALL BELTS.
1 BASE BALL.
1 BASE BALL BAT.
1 THROWING GLOVE.
1 CATCHER'S MITT.
1 CATCHER'S WIRE MASK.
1 BOOK COMPLETE BASE BALL RULES.

Boys, here is a chance to get a Complete Outfit at a Bargain. Send us your order quick. Price, Complete Outfit, packed in strong case, only \$2.00.

Every boy wants his club in uniform. Here is the chance. Jim dandy goods and latest league pattern. Complete outfit for young prize winners. Take a pride in your club and work for it.

A BIG CHANCE FOR YOUR CLUB. Get up a club of subscribers at our special trial rate of 25 cents and we will send one outfit free. Each boy get one subscriber and you get the outfit. Address, COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.



NOTICE TO AGENTS.

A Profitable Business

FOR MEN AND WOMEN WHO ARE
WILLING TO WORK.

\$3.00 a Day Sure.

DEAR READER:

If you are out of work, or are not satisfied with your present business and would like to make more money, it will be to your interest to read this notice. We do not offer you a chance to make a fortune without work, but we do offer you an opportunity to make money much faster than you can make it at any other kind of work. The country is flooded with circulars offering chances to make money at the rate of from twenty to fifty dollars a day; such offers are not business-like, and all agents who amount to anything are disgusted with such circulars, and most of them are thrown aside without being read. If you are looking for an opportunity to make twenty to fifty dollars a day, you might as well throw this notice aside also; but if you would like to engage in a good paying business, you will do well to read this notice through carefully. Then you can use your own judgment as to whether our offer is a reasonable one or not.

We guarantee that anyone who is willing to work can make from \$3 to \$5 a day at this business. We admit that \$3 to \$5 a day is not much of an inducement when compared to the statements made by some firms, who offer all the way from \$20 to \$50 a day for selling various articles. We do not make you such glowing promises, but what we do offer you has the advantage of being true. We might offer agents a sure chance of making from \$20 to \$50 a day, but the chances are that anyone who would believe such unreasonable nonsense would not know enough to earn his board at any kind of business. That is not the kind of agents we are in quest of; we want reliable agents with common sense, who are willing to work for good pay, and not those who are looking for an opportunity to make a fortune without work. We believe the only way to get such agents and keep them, is to furnish them with a good thing to sell, a real genuine bargain, and then to tell them the exact truth about the business. We have a large number of agents at work, and we know for a certainty what working agents can make. We know that \$3 a day is the very lowest; most of our agents are averaging \$4 and \$5 a day, and often some of them make a good deal more than that. We have several agents who are clearing from \$7 to \$10 a day. But these are great workers operating in the best territory, and, of course, everyone cannot do as well, but it is easy for anyone to make, at the very least, \$3 a day above all expenses in any territory. We haven't a single working agent who is clearing, on an average, less than \$3 a day. Now, be sure that you understand us: We don't say that lazy, shiftless agents will make \$3 a day, for they can't do it at this or any other business, but what we do say is that agents who are willing to work, not too hard, but the same as they would expect to work at any other business, can easily clear \$3 a day above all expenses, in any territory, and if they have good territory to work in they can make anywhere from \$5 to \$7, and even \$10 a day. If you want a good chance to work and get good pay for it, you will find it to your interest to read this notice through carefully.

The articles which we have for you to sell are a line of forks, spoons, etc., made of a new metal called "Brazil Silver." We will describe this new line of goods the best we can, then you can judge for yourself whether we are offering you a good chance to make money or not.

BRAZIL SILVER.

Warranted for Twenty-five Years.

Brazil Silver is believed to be the very best metal in existence for the manufacture of forks and spoons; it has all the lustre and brilliancy of burnished coin silver, and is much harder and more durable, in fact, it is impossible to wear it out. It is absolutely indestructible. The goods made of this metal are the same all the way through, there being no plating to wear off they will remain as good as new for any length of time. For all practical purposes in the manufacture of table ware this Brazil Silver is superior to coin silver. It is as lustrous and as pure as coin silver, and being much harder it will wear even longer than silver; in fact it is absolutely impossible to wear it out. It will wear forever. As there is no plating to wear off, the metal being the same all the way through, it stands to reason that you can't wear it out. Our confidence in the metal is so great that we guarantee it to wear twenty-five years. We give a guarantee signed by the company warranting the goods to wear and to give perfect satisfaction for twenty-five years. We are an old, strong and thoroughly established firm with ample capital to carry on our business and make our guaranty as good as the Bank of England. In selling these goods an agent can recommend them with the greatest of confidence, for they are just as represented, absolutely indestructible. And, furthermore, our guarantee warranting the goods to give satisfaction for twenty-five years, clears the agent from all responsibility in the matter; for if any article fails to give perfect satisfaction, no matter how long it has been in use, we hold ourselves ready to refund the money paid for the article. These goods are the same metal all the way through; they will never wear out. They always wear white and bright. We give a guarantee signed by the company, warranting every piece of Brazil Silver to wear twenty-five years. You can sell these goods to your best friends with perfect confidence, for every sale is as much a benefit to your customer as to yourself.

Working with goods that are warranted to wear and give satisfaction for so long a time as twenty-five years, and by a company, too, whose capital is sufficiently large to make their guarantee good for almost any amount, is an advantage which no other firm is prepared to offer. If you want to make money fast now is the time to do it. If you think that five-dollar bills are good things to have, now is the time to get them. Never in the history of the agency business have agents had as good a chance to make money rapidly, and it is reasonably sure that they will never have another chance like it.

It is easy to make from \$3 to \$5 a day at this business.

All Marked with Initial Letters, Without any Extra Cost.

Among all classes there has always been a strong desire to have their table ware marked with their initial letter, but on account of the heavy expense of having it marked only a very few have been able to afford it. Heretofore the cost of artistically marking table ware has been even greater than the cost of the goods; now, by our new methods, we are able to offer these elegant Brazil Silver goods, all marked with any initial letter desired in the very highest style of the art, without any extra cost for marking. These Brazil Silver goods, even if unmarked, would be the greatest bargain ever offered the public in table ware, but with the additional and highly desirable feature of being all marked with beautiful and artistic initial letters, these goods are not only great bargains in table ware, but are the greatest bargains of any kind that have ever been offered to the public through agents or in any other way.

The people are always ready enough to buy what they want when it is presented to them in the form of a genuine bargain. Well, here is absolutely the greatest bargain every offered, and the agent who works with it will find that what he has is earnestly desired at nearly every house he visits; it is easy to get orders when you can offer great bargains, that the people really want and can afford.

It is easy to make from \$3 to \$5 a day at this business.

Table and Dessert Knives.

Our knives are made of the finest tempered cutlery steel and are triple plate, in other words every dozen knives is plated with 12 dwt. of pure silver and hand burnished. Our knives are of the highest grade, fully equal to Rogers' or any knives made. These knives will not wear as long as Brazil Silver goods, but they will wear as long as any knives made. We guarantee them to wear ten years in constant use. If not in constant use they will wear proportionately longer. We give a guarantee, signed by the Company, warranting the knives to wear and to give perfect satisfaction to the purchaser for ten years. As knives are usually used in families they will wear much longer, anywhere from fifteen to twenty years. They are fully equal to Rogers' knives and only cost about two-thirds as much. It may seem strange to some that we can sell so staple an article as silver plated knives at such reduced prices, but we are doing it. It is our way of giving the public good, solid value for their money. We are saving our customers about one-third of the price at which the same grade of knives are sold at the stores and jewelers. Any one who will take the trouble to compare our knives and prices with triple plate 12 dwt. knives sold at the stores and jewelers, will be convinced of the truth of our statements. We are making a profit, of course, but our unequal facilities and immense trade make it possible for us to undersell all competitors, and our customers are getting the benefit of the lowest prices known in the silverware trade. We are not only selling at greatly reduced prices, but we also guarantee every article to be exactly as represented and to give perfect satisfaction to the purchaser, or money refunded.

The First Thing to Do.

If you decide to accept the agency, the first thing to do is to send to us for the agent's case of samples, which is the most complete and perfect case of samples that has ever been prepared for the convenience of agents. Our complete and perfect case of samples is not to be compared with anything that has ever been sent to agents before. It contains the very best and most salable articles in the world. There is nothing in the market that agents can sell as fast and sell as easily and make as much money out of, as they can the goods contained in this splendid case of samples, and everything is arranged and explained so that any agent can't fail to understand just how to go to work to make a great success of the business. As soon as you receive the case of samples you are ready for business. And if you are willing to work you are just as sure to make from \$3 to \$5 a day as the sun is to rise. Take the case of samples and canvass your territory according to the directions sent with the samples, until you have taken orders for the amount of goods you are prepared to send for. Then order the goods from us and fill your orders, and so continue.

The Magnificent Case of Samples Which We Furnish to Agents.

The case of samples which we furnish to agents contains the following articles:

One Sample Table Knife, retail price, \$2.10 per set of six	35	cents each
One Sample Dessert Knife, retail price, \$1.95 per set of six	32-1-2	cents each
One Sample Table Fork, retail price, \$1.95 per set of six	32-1-2	cents each
One Sample Table Spoon, retail price, \$1.95 per set of six	32-1-2	cents each
One Sample Dessert Fork, retail price, \$1.80 per set of six	30	cents each
One Sample Dessert Spoon, retail price, \$1.80 per set of six	30	cents each
One Sample Tea Spoon, retail price, 95 cents per set of six	15-5-8	cents each
One Sugar Shell	25	cents each
One Butter Knife	25	cents each
One Salt or Pepper Shaker	25	cents each
Total retail value of Samples	\$2.83 1-3	

We also send you with the case of samples a large and very beautiful catalogue, illustrating a full line of plated ware, such as Casters, Pickle Cruets, Butter Dishes, Tea Sets, Napkin Rings, etc., etc., etc.

Reckoning the above samples at our lowest retail prices they amount to \$2.83 1-3. We furnish them to agents nicely put up in an elegant sample case or roll, for only \$1.00, which is \$1.83 1-3 less than they amount to at our regular retail prices. This is less than one-half of the retail value of the samples, and much less than they cost us. The sample case or roll, which the samples are put up in costs us nearly as much as we require you to send for the samples, case and all.

Wholesale Prices.

Wholesale or agents' prices and all necessary information for carrying on the business will be furnished with the Outfit. Remember we make everything plain to you about wholesale prices, methods, etc., when we send you the Outfit.

VERY IMPORTANT.

The business we are offering is straightforward and honest in every way, shape and manner. Our goods are in every respect, just as we represent them to be. The Outfit we furnish our agents is exactly as we represent it, and is always sent the same day the order is received, just as agreed. We have tried to state these facts so they could and would be believed and still we are constantly receiving letters from parties who would like to engage in the business and would do so if they felt sure we were telling the truth and would do as we agree. Many of these doubters have been cheated and are not altogether to blame for doubting; the most of them say they think we are honest, they say we talk honest, but as they have already been swindled they don't feel like risking even one dollar and so, although our business is in every respect just as represented, and we always do just as we promise, we lose the services of a great many agents and they lose the benefit they might derive from the business because they are afraid we may not be telling the truth. Now, to overcome this spirit of doubt, we have decided to send Samples to all who wish us to do so, C. O. D., with privilege of examination at the express office. It costs us from twenty-five to forty cents more to send the samples this way, as we have to pay that amount for return charges on the money, but we are willing to do it and so prove to all that are interested that the Outfit and our goods are just what

we claim. If after reading this notice you think you would like to give the business a trial, but wish to see the Sample Case before you pay the one dollar, cut out the following printed form, fill it out and send it to us and we will send the Outfit to your express office prepaid, and give the express agent instructions to let you thoroughly examine the Outfit, then, if you are satisfied that we have told the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, and are also satisfied that you can make money selling our goods, you can pay the express agent one dollar and take the Outfit. If you are not satisfied, you can refuse to take it and the agent will return it to us. No other firm has ever made such an offer. We have adopted this plan in order to convince the most skeptical and to secure the services of all the good working agents in the United States.

(CUT OUT THE FOLLOWING FORM.)

Form to be Signed by those who wish us to send the Outfit C. O. D. with Privilege of Examination.

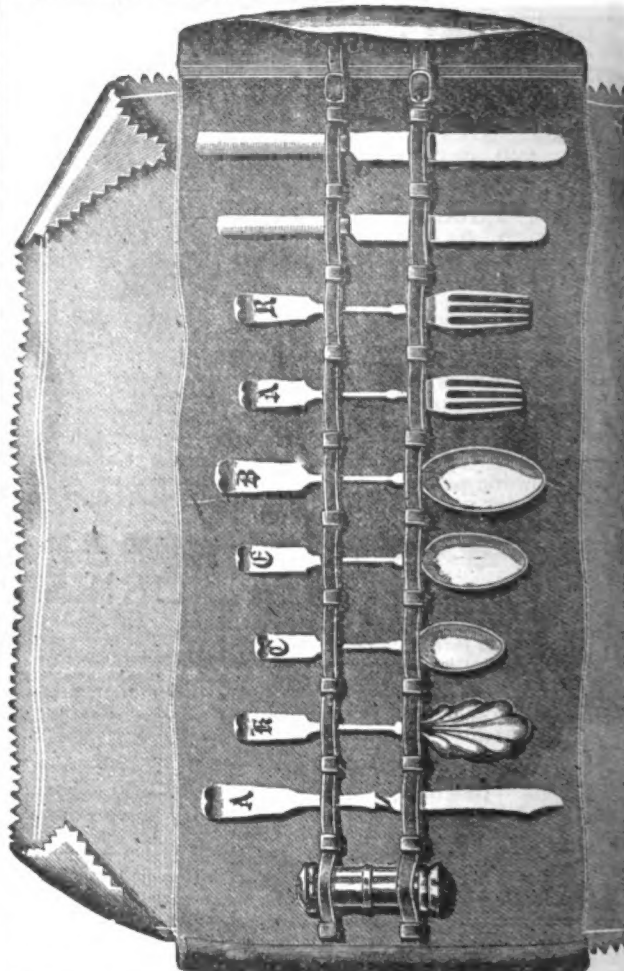
ROYAL MANUFACTURING CO., DETROIT, MICH.: GENTLEMEN—Send the Outfit by Express, C. O. D., with privilege of examination. If I find the Outfit just as you say, I will pay the one dollar required and give the business a fair trial, but if I am not satisfied that the Outfit is as good as you recommend it to be, I shall refuse to receive it. Now, remember, the understanding is that I am not to take the Outfit unless I, myself, am satisfied that it is all right. It must all depend on my own judgment. If I am satisfied, I will take the Outfit; if I am not satisfied, I shall not take it and shall not pay the one dollar. If you want to send the Outfit with this understanding, send it along C. O. D., with privilege of examination.

Name.....

Postoffice.....

County..... State.....

Express Station.....



This cut shows the Sample Case or Roll, and how the samples appear put up ready for business. The Roll is made of highly finished waterproof canvas, and lined with soft flannel goods. The samples are held in place by strong straps. The whole rolls up and fastens with a leather strap which is firmly fastened to the back of the Roll. This is the most practical arrangement for carrying the samples that could be thought of. When rolled up the Case is compact and easy to carry. When open the samples show to the best possible advantage, making a good impression at first sight. This Sample Roll gives a business-like appearance; it is substantial and handsome, and invariably gives the impression that there is something valuable inside. All are anxious to see what it is you are carrying around with such care. This is of importance as it secures attention and interest at the start. There is nothing like having your samples put up in a business-like shape; it gives a favorable impression from the start, which is half the battle. It is the same in all matters. A store that looks like business attracts customers; while, from a shanty store, you would not, as a rule, expect the best things. The fact is, in the agency business, as in every other business, you must have things fixed up just right if you expect to succeed. Our Brazil Silver Goods are the best that have ever been offered for the price, or anywhere near it. The new feature of being marked with beautiful and artistic initial letters, free of cost, is the greatest popular hit of the times; and the Sample Roll is arranged so as to show the goods off to the best possible advantage. Furthermore, we carefully teach every agent just how to take advantage of all these splendid qualities and popular features. Is it any wonder that our agents succeed better than those who are working for other firms?

We Prepay all Express Charges on Everything. We pay the charges on the Outfit and on all goods ordered. Remember, we pay all express charges.

ROYAL MANUFACTURING CO.,
Box 4100,
DETROIT, MICH.